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**Cross-species analysis of ARPP19 phosphorylation during oocyte meiotic maturation charts the emergence of a new cAMP-dependent role in vertebrates**

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Running title: ARPP19 and PKA in *Clytia* and *Xenopus* oocytes

Keywords: oocyte; meiotic maturation; *Clytia*; *Xenopus*; ARPP19; cAMP; PKA; Cdk1

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 In many animal species, elevated cAMP-PKA signaling initiates oocyte meiotic maturation  
3 upon hormonal stimulation, whereas in vertebrates, it acts as a negative regulator of this  
4 process. To address this “cAMP paradox”, we have focused on ARPP19 proteins.  
5 Dephosphorylation of *Xenopus* ARPP19 on a specific PKA site has been identified as a key step  
6 in initiating oocyte maturation. We first tracked evolution of the ARPP19 PKA phosphorylation  
7 site, revealing that it appeared early during the emergence of metazoans. This contrasts with  
8 strong conservation across eukaryotes of a phosphorylation site for the kinase Gwl in ARPP19  
9 proteins, able to transform them into potent PP2A-B55 inhibitors and thus promote M-phase  
10 entry. We then compared the phosphorylation and function of *Xenopus* ARPP19 with its  
11 orthologue from the jellyfish *Clytia*, a model species showing cAMP-induced oocyte  
12 maturation. We confirmed that *Clytia* ARPP19 is phosphorylated on the conserved Gwl site *in*  
13 *vitro* as well as in maturing *Xenopus* and *Clytia* oocytes, behaving as a PP2A inhibitor and  
14 contributing to Cdk1 activation. However, Gwl-phosphorylated ARPP19 was unable to initiate  
15 oocyte maturation in *Clytia*, suggesting the presence of additional locks released by hormonal  
16 stimulation. *Clytia* ARPP19 was *in vitro* phosphorylated by PKA uniquely on the predicted site,  
17 but it was a much poorer substrate of PKA and of its antagonizing phosphatase, PP2A-B55 $\delta$ ,  
18 than the *Xenopus* protein. Correspondingly, PKA-phosphomimetic *Clytia* ARPP19 had a much  
19 weaker inhibitory activity on meiosis resumption in *Xenopus* oocytes than its *Xenopus*  
20 counterpart. Hence, poor recognition of *Clytia* ARPP19 by PKA and the absence of its targets  
21 in *Clytia* oocytes account for the cAMP paradox. This cross-species study of ARPP19 illustrates  
22 how initiation of oocyte maturation has complexified during animal evolution, and provides  
23 further insight into its biochemical regulation.

24

25

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 Meiosis in ovarian oocytes is arrested at the first prophase stage, until appropriate hormonal  
3 stimulation triggers progression into the meiotic divisions and the accompanying  
4 “maturation” events that prepare the egg for fertilisation. The molecular mechanisms  
5 responsible for maintaining and then releasing the prophase arrest of fully-grown ovarian  
6 oocytes have been the subject of intense study in several animal model species, but the  
7 regulation has proved very difficult to fully decipher and many questions remain open (Jessus  
8 *et al*, 2020). This reflects in part the convoluted evolutionary history of reproductive biology,  
9 in which the tissular origin and molecular nature of upstream regulating hormones has  
10 complexified independently in different animal lineages. As a consequence, the “Maturation  
11 Inducing Hormones” (MIHs) directly responsible for releasing the prophase arrest have varied  
12 molecular natures across species, and thus trigger distinct cytoplasmic signaling pathways  
13 (Quiroga Artigas *et al*, 2020; Von Stetina & Orr-Weaver, 2011; Voronina & Wessel, 2003).  
14 These diverse signaling pathways nevertheless all converge to activate a highly conserved  
15 kinase activation system that initiates entry into M-phase and thus the first meiotic division.  
16 The core element of this system is the Cdk1-Cyclin B complex known as MPF (M-phase  
17 promoting factor), which initiates M-phase by the phosphorylation of multiple substrates  
18 (Kishimoto, 2018; Masui, 2001). In this study, we take a comparative approach between two  
19 species that use opposing signaling pathways to trigger oocyte maturation initiation, in order  
20 to help unpick the hierarchy of regulations upstream of MPF activation. Specifically, we  
21 address the “cAMP paradox”, whereby cAMP/PKA signaling inhibits oocyte maturation  
22 initiation in vertebrates but triggers it in many other species, focusing on the sequence,  
23 phosphorylation characteristics and function of the regulatory protein ARPP19 from the  
24 amphibian *Xenopus* and its orthologue in the hydrozoan *Clytia*.

25 In vertebrates, high levels of intracellular cAMP and cAMP-dependent kinase (PKA) activity are  
26 essential in maintaining the prophase arrest. MIH stimulation induces a drop of both cAMP  
27 levels and of PKA activity to launch a signaling pathway leading to MPF activation, manifest as  
28 disassembly of the nuclear envelope, referred as GVBD for germinal vesicle breakdown (Maller  
29 *et al*, 1979; Ozon *et al*, 1979; Wang & Liu, 2004). cAMP levels and PKA activity can be  
30 experimentally manipulated by either inhibiting or stimulating the two antagonistic enzyme  
31 families that control cAMP level, adenylate cyclases and phosphodiesterases, or by  
32 overexpression or specific inhibition of PKA. Such experiments have revealed that in  
33 mammals, amphibia and fish oocytes, any elevation in cAMP or PKA activity blocks meiotic  
34 resumption induced by MIH, whereas cAMP decrease or PKA inhibition is sufficient to trigger  
35 meiotic resumption in the absence of MIH (Conti *et al*, 2002; Evers *et al*, 2005; Huchon *et al*,  
36 1981; Kovo *et al*, 2006; Maller & Krebs, 1977). Although the necessity of a drop in cAMP and  
37 PKA activity for meiosis resumption in *Xenopus* has been questioned (Nader *et al*, 2016), high  
38 levels of cAMP and PKA activity thus clearly play central roles in maintaining the prophase  
39 arrest in all vertebrates studied to date.

40 In various studied animal species from various non-vertebrate taxa, distinct signaling systems  
41 have been shown to be involved in maintaining or releasing the oocyte prophase arrest, some

1 dependent on cAMP and PKA and some not. Remarkably, in several cases, cytoplasmic cAMP  
2 concentrations and PKA activity in the oocyte rise in response to MIH stimulation, and thus  
3 act as positive rather than negative regulators (Deguchi *et al*, 2011). Such cAMP rises during  
4 meiosis resumption have been documented in the brittle star *Amphipholis kochii*  
5 (echinoderm) (Yamashita, 1988), various nemerteans (Stricker & Smythe, 2001), the surf clam  
6 *Spisula solidissima* (mollusk) (Yi *et al*, 2002) and multiple hydrozoan species (Freeman &  
7 Ridgway, 1988; Takeda *et al*, 2006). Moreover, in these species, but also in *Boltenia villosa*  
8 (ascidian) (Lambert, 2011), *Pseudopotamilla ocellata* (annelid) (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011) and  
9 hydrozoans including *Cytaeis uchidae* and *Clytia hemisphaerica* (Amiel & Houlston, 2009;  
10 Takeda *et al.*, 2006), meiosis resumption is triggered by externally-applied membrane-  
11 permeable cAMP, or cAMP injection, or by activators of adenylate cyclase or inhibitors of  
12 phosphodiesterase that increase cAMP. From these observations it is clear that in many  
13 animal species PKA is essential for triggering the pathway leading to MPF activation in  
14 response to MIH, and thus has a role opposite to that in vertebrates. The evolutionary history  
15 of this regulation is complex since in other cases including some echinoderms and ascidians,  
16 no role for cAMP has been detected in meiotic resumption, which is mediated by distinct  
17 signaling pathways (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011).

18 The small protein ARPP19 (cAMP-regulated phosphoprotein 19), which in vertebrates has a  
19 paralog called ENSA, belongs to the Endosulfine protein family, widespread across eukaryotes  
20 (Labandera *et al*, 2015). In *Xenopus* oocytes, ARPP19 is phosphorylated by PKA on serine 109  
21 (S109) and this S109-phosphorylated form is involved in maintaining the arrest in prophase  
22 (Dupre *et al*, 2014). In response to the *Xenopus* MIH, progesterone, ARPP19 becomes  
23 dephosphorylated on S109 by a specific phosphatase, PP2A-B55 $\delta$ , authorizing the release of  
24 the prophase block (Labbe *et al*, 2021; Lemonnier *et al*, 2021). Subsequently, ARPP19 plays a  
25 second role in meiotic maturation, one widely shared with other dividing cells. It mediates  
26 inhibition of the PP2A-B55 $\delta$  phosphatase, which is necessary for Cdk1 activation and thus  
27 entry into M-phase (Mochida *et al*, 2009; Vigneron *et al*, 2009). This inhibition is achieved by  
28 a distinct phosphorylation of ARPP19, by the protein kinase Greatwall (Gwl), on serine 67 (S67)  
29 (Dupre *et al*, 2013; Gharbi-Ayachi *et al*, 2010; Mochida *et al*, 2010). This specific  
30 phosphorylation converts ARPP19 into a potent and specific inhibitor of PP2A-B55 $\delta$  and allows  
31 Cdk1 activation. ARPP19 thus assumes successively two distinct functions during *Xenopus*  
32 meiosis resumption. Its phosphorylation on S109 by PKA maintains the prophase arrest such  
33 that dephosphorylation on this site by PP2A-B55 $\delta$  releases the prophase block. A poorly  
34 understood molecular signaling cascade is then induced leading to the phosphorylation of  
35 ARPP19 on S67 by Gwl. This inhibits PP2A-B55 $\delta$  and activates Cdk1.

36 The positive role of ARPP19 on Cdk1 activation, through the S67 phosphorylation by Gwl,  
37 appears to be widespread across all eukaryotic mitotic and meiotic divisions (Dupre & Jesus,  
38 2017). In contrast, the PKA-dependence of ARPP19 on the oocyte meiotic prophase  
39 arrest has only been studied so far in *Xenopus* (Dupre *et al.*, 2013; Dupre *et al.*, 2014; Dupre  
40 *et al*, 2017; Lemonnier *et al.*, 2021). Here we investigate the phospho-regulation and role  
41 during oocyte maturation of ARPP19 from *Clytia hemisphaerica*, a laboratory model

1 hydrozoan species well suited to oogenesis studies (Amiel *et al*, 2009; Jesus *et al.*, 2020;  
2 Lechable *et al*, 2020; Munro *et al*, 2023; Quiroga Artigas *et al*, 2018). Meiotic maturation in  
3 hydrozoan oocytes is initiated by a rise in intracellular cAMP and PKA activity downstream of  
4 GPCR-G $\alpha_s$  signaling (Freeman & Ridgway, 1988; Quiroga Artigas *et al.*, 2020; Takeda *et al.*,  
5 2006). We first compared the sequence of ARPP19 proteins across eukaryotes to track its  
6 evolution, focusing specifically on the phosphorylation site by PKA. We then explored and  
7 compared the phosphorylation of *Clytia* and *Xenopus* ARPP19 proteins on the PKA-site and  
8 the Gwl-site. This functional comparative study revealed that, despite a recognisable and  
9 functional site of phosphorylation by PKA that emerged during animal evolution, *Clytia*  
10 ARPP19 is a poor substrate for PKA and PP2A-B55, the two enzymes regulating this  
11 phosphorylation site. Furthermore, the targets of ARPP19 regulating the resumption of  
12 meiosis in *Xenopus* are not functionally detectable in *Clytia* oocytes. These two features  
13 account for the ability of PKA activity to trigger meiosis resumption in *Clytia* oocyte despite  
14 the presence of ARPP19. More broadly, our results provide new perspectives regarding the  
15 intramolecular regulation of ARPP19 functions and the evolutionary scenarios underlying a  
16 universal feature of animal reproductive biology: maintenance and release of the oocyte  
17 prophase arrest.  
18

## 1 RESULTS

### 2 The PKA phosphorylation site of ARPP19 is restricted to animals

3 To understand better the dual role of ARPP19 in regulating *Xenopus* oocyte meiotic  
4 maturation, we addressed the evolutionary conservation of the key sequence motifs  
5 phosphorylated by Gwl and PKA. Previous analyses focused on the site for phosphorylation by  
6 Gwl, which is highly conserved across eukaryotes suggesting an ancient origin and conserved  
7 function (Labandera *et al.*, 2015). In this work, we examined more specifically the conservation  
8 of the PKA phosphorylation site, identified by functional analysis in various metazoans  
9 (Dulubova *et al.*, 2001; Dupre *et al.*, 2014; Horiuchi *et al.*, 1990).

10 We aligned ARPP19 protein sequences recovered from publicly available genomic  
11 /transcriptome data from plants, fungi, choanoflagellates, teretosporeans and a range of  
12 metazoans (Fig. 1A, Supp Figs. S1 and S2). As highlighted in previous analysis (Labandera *et*  
13 *al.*, 2015), the key motif for Gwl phosphorylation (FDS\*G/AD) is very highly conserved across  
14 eukaryotes. The central serine of this motif is phosphorylated by Gwl to generate a potent  
15 PP2A-B55 inhibitor (Dupre *et al.*, 2013; Gharbi-Ayachi *et al.*, 2010; Juanes *et al.*, 2013; Mochida  
16 *et al.*, 2010). In contrast with the Gwl phosphorylation site, the known *Xenopus* ARPP19 PKA  
17 phosphorylation motif was only recognizable in the alignment in sequences from metazoan  
18 species (Labandera *et al.*, 2015). It was not found in ARPP19 sequences from sponge species,  
19 but was clearly present in the ctenophore sequences. Under the scenario that ctenophores  
20 are the sister to all other animals (Schultz *et al.*, 2023), this implies that it was present in a  
21 common metazoan ancestor. On the C-terminal side of the PKA site, we noted a SxL motif  
22 present in species scattered right across the metazoan phylogeny (including sponges), and  
23 also in the choanoflagellate *Hartaetosiga balthica* and the teretosporean *Sphaeroforma*  
24 *artica*. Even more widely conserved was a sequence lying N terminal side of the PKA  
25 phosphorylation motif, GxxxPTPxx $\phi$ P (where  $\phi$  is a hydrophobic amino acid), detectable in the  
26 ARPP19 sequences across the opisthokonts (Fig. 1A, Supp Figs. S1 and S2). The significance of  
27 these motifs is unknown (see Discussion).

28 In conclusion, the site for PKA phosphorylation likely appeared as an important feature of  
29 ARPP19/ENSA proteins early during the emergence of metazoans. It remains very well  
30 conserved across the clade Eumetazoa (Cnidaria plus Bilateria), suggesting that  
31 phosphorylation on this site conveys an important biological property common to these  
32 animals. We thus undertook a comparative functional analysis of the PKA site of ARPP19 in  
33 the cnidarian *Clytia hemisphaerica* (ClyARPP19) and the amphibian *Xenopus laevis*  
34 (XeARPP19). The alignment of two sequences in Fig. 1B highlights the serines phosphorylated  
35 by Gwl and PKA in XeARPP19 (S67 and S109 respectively) and the corresponding serines in  
36 ClyARPP19 (S49 and S81 respectively). We focused on the process of oocyte maturation, in  
37 which intriguingly PKA plays opposite roles in the two species (Jesus *et al.*, 2020). From  
38 available genome transcriptome data (Leclere *et al.*, 2019; Takeda *et al.*, 2018), we determined  
39 that *Clytia* has a single ARPP19 orthologue, expressed in growing and fully grown oocytes and  
40 across all life cycle stages. *In situ* hybridization experiments confirmed that ARPP19 mRNA is

1 strongly expressed in ovarian oocytes and detected expression also in other tissues of the  
2 *Clytia* medusa, notably the nerve rings that run around the bell margin (Fig. 1C).

3

#### 4 **The Cdk1 activation function of ARPP19 is conserved in *Clytia* and *Xenopus***

5 In *Xenopus* oocytes, ARPP19 phosphorylated by Gwl on S67 becomes a direct inhibitor of  
6 PP2A-B55 $\delta$ , activating the Cdk1 auto-amplification loop and leading to meiotic division (Dupre  
7 *et al.*, 2013). Injection into *Xenopus* prophase-arrested oocytes of XeARPP19  
8 thiophosphorylated on S67 bypasses the progesterone-triggered maturation initiation  
9 mechanism to promote M-phase entry and meiotic divisions (Dupre *et al.*, 2013) (Fig. 2A-B).  
10 To test whether ClyARPP19 can similarly induce meiosis resumption, we produced ClyARPP19  
11 thiophosphorylated on S49 (Supp Fig. S3), injected it into *Xenopus* prophase oocytes, and then  
12 monitored GVBD as well as the phosphorylation level of MAPK and Cdk1, two molecular  
13 markers of meiotic cell division (Fig. 2A-B). Cdk1 is activated by Y15 dephosphorylation while  
14 MAPK is activated by phosphorylation (Jesus *et al.*, 1991). Injection of S49-thiophosphorylated  
15 ClyARPP19 promoted meiosis resumption accompanied by Cdk1 and MAPK activation.  
16 ClyARPP19 phosphorylated on S49 is thus sufficient to promote meiotic maturation and Cdk1  
17 activation in *Xenopus* oocyte, strongly suggesting that the *Clytia* protein shares with the  
18 *Xenopus* protein the inhibitory capacity of Gwl-phosphorylated ARPP19 towards PP2A-B55 $\delta$ ,  
19 leading to Cdk1 activation.

20 The inhibitory potential of S49-thiophosphorylated ClyARPP19 towards PP2A was confirmed  
21 in *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts. As already described (Lemonnier *et al.*, 2021), PP2A is  
22 active in these extracts, efficiently dephosphorylates an artificial substrate, the C-ter part of  
23 XeARPP19 (amino-acids 68 to 117) phosphorylated on S109, and is inhibited by S67-  
24 thiophosphorylated XeARPP19. The *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts were supplemented  
25 with this phosphorylated C-ter substrate in the absence or presence of S49-  
26 thiophosphorylated ClyARPP19. PP2A activity was impaired by Gwl-phosphorylated  
27 ClyARPP19 (Fig. 2C-E), confirming the inhibitory activity of this protein towards PP2A.

28

#### 29 **Gwl phosphorylation of ClyARPP19 is insufficient to initiate oocyte maturation**

30 Although entry into first meiotic M-phase in both species is mediated by Cdk1 activation, the  
31 mechanisms that promote this activation following oocyte hormonal stimulation are  
32 molecularly distinct and far from fully understood (Jesus *et al.*, 2020). In *Xenopus*, key  
33 progesterone-triggered events are a drop in cytoplasmic cAMP concentration, leading to  
34 synthesis of Cyclin B and Mos proteins, while in hydrozoans like *Clytia* binding of the peptide  
35 hormone MIH to its GPCR on the oocyte surface causes an immediate endogenous  
36 cytoplasmic cAMP rise, via G $\alpha_s$  signaling (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011; Quiroga Artigas *et al.*, 2020;  
37 Takeda *et al.*, 2018). Subsequently, meiotic maturation proceeds much more rapidly in *Clytia*  
38 than in *Xenopus*, GVBD occurring 10-20 minutes after treatment with MIH rather than several  
39 hours after progesterone stimulation. To gain insight into the molecular regulation of meiotic  
40 maturation in *Xenopus* vs *Clytia* oocytes, we investigated whether ARPP19 is phosphorylated



1 on the Gwl site in *Clytia* oocytes during meiosis resumption. As endogenous ClyARPP19 is  
2 barely detectable by western blot, we injected exogenous ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 into  
3 *Clytia* oocytes and analyzed the phosphorylation of the Gwl site in response to MIH  
4 stimulation. Both proteins were strongly phosphorylated on their Gwl sites (S49 and S67  
5 respectively) in oocytes collected 15 minutes following MIH treatment (Fig. 3A-B). Thus, the  
6 mechanism of MPF activation in maturing *Clytia* oocytes matches that observed in *Xenopus*  
7 oocytes in involving phosphorylation of ARPP19 by Gwl or a related kinase downstream of  
8 MIH stimulation.

9 We further tested whether injection of Gwl-phosphorylated ARPP19 proteins could promote  
10 oocyte meiotic maturation in *Clytia*. We were unable to induce maturation of *Clytia* oocytes  
11 by injection of any versions of *Clytia* or *Xenopus* ARPP19 including wild-type XeARPP19 or  
12 ClyARPP19 thiophosphorylated by Gwl. Injecting 4mg/ml pipette concentration of these two  
13 proteins induced only non-specific incidence of GVBD (0 or 1 oocyte from each of 4 groups of  
14 9-20 oocytes injected with each of the thiophosphorylated proteins, comparable with buffer  
15 injections; results summarized in Fig. 3C, full details in Supplementary Table 1). It was not  
16 possible to increase injection volumes or protein concentrations without inducing high levels  
17 of non-specific toxicity. These experiments suggest that, unlike in *Xenopus*, PP2A inhibition is  
18 not sufficient to induce oocyte meiotic division in *Clytia*. To confirm that this lack of  
19 maturation induction was not due to ineffective PP2A inhibition by the injected proteins, we  
20 repeated the experiment injecting okadaic acid (OA), a powerful PP2A inhibitor (Takai *et al*,  
21 1987) that induces meiosis resumption in *Xenopus* oocytes (Goris *et al*, 1989). Injection of  
22 *Clytia* oocytes with OA at 2 $\mu$ M did not promote GVBD, however between 40 and 90 minutes  
23 post-injection all injected oocytes showed cortical contractions followed by fragmentation  
24 and/or degradation (Fig. 3C), suggesting that prolonged PP2A inhibition is lethal to the  
25 oocytes. These results suggest that PP2A inhibition is not sufficient to induce oocyte  
26 maturation in *Clytia*, although we cannot rule out that the quantity of OA or Gwl-  
27 thiophosphorylated ARPP proteins delivered was insufficient to trigger GVBD.

28 To summarise these findings, we have shown that ClyARPP19 is phosphorylated on the Gwl  
29 site in response to MIH and that Gwl-phosphorylated ARPP19 from either *Clytia* or *Xenopus*  
30 origin can inhibit PP2A, confirming the strong conservation of this function in eukaryotes. In  
31 *Clytia* oocytes, however, unlike in *Xenopus* oocytes, this inhibition appears insufficient to  
32 override the prophase arrest mechanism

33

#### 34 **ClyARPP19 is phosphorylated on S81 by PKA *in vitro***

35 In *Xenopus*, phosphorylation of ARPP19 by PKA on S109 within the PKA consensus motif  
36 RKPS<sub>109</sub>L maintains the oocyte prophase arrest (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). The general consensus  
37 PKA site is reported to be R/K-R/K-X-S\*/T\*. The phosphopredict program retrieved the site  
38 RKIS<sub>81</sub>S<sub>82</sub> in ClyARPP19 recognized in our alignments (Fig1. A) as a PKA consensus sequence  
39 (Fig. 1B). It includes two serines, S81 and S82, the first matching the position of the  
40 phosphorylated residue in the general PKA consensus site. To determine if one or both of  
41 these are phosphorylated by PKA, we produced four forms of ClyARPP19 tagged by GST: wild-

1 type (WT), the single amino acid substitutions S81D and S82D, and the double mutant S81D-  
2 S82D (Fig. 4A), the 'phosphomimetic' substitution of Serine with Aspartic acid preventing  
3 phosphorylation. All recombinant proteins were incubated *in vitro* in the presence of purified  
4 recombinant bovine PKA and  $\gamma$ S-ATP. An extended period of incubation (2 hours) was required  
5 to detect their phosphorylation by western blot with an antibody that detects  
6 thiophosphorylated residues (Fig. 4B, Supp Fig. S4). Wild-type ClyARPP19 but not the double  
7 S81D-S82D was phosphorylated by PKA *in vitro*, showing that the only residues  
8 phosphorylated by PKA in ClyARPP19 are located in the PKA consensus motif. As predicted, no  
9 phosphorylation was detected in the S81D mutant. The S82D mutant was phosphorylated by  
10 PKA, although the level of phosphorylation was reduced compared to that of WT-ClyARPP19  
11 (Fig. 4B, Supp Fig. S4), indicating that mutation of this residue impairs the phosphorylation of  
12 the neighboring S81. This *in vitro* assay thus places S81 as the sole residue in ClyARPP19 for  
13 phosphorylation by PKA.

14

### 15 **ClyARPP19 only weakly affects *Xenopus* oocyte meiosis resumption**

16 When injected into prophase-arrested *Xenopus* oocytes, XeARPP19 rapidly becomes  
17 phosphorylated by PKA on S109, and this exogenous protein prevents progesterone from  
18 inducing GVBD in a dose-dependent manner (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). To test whether ClyARPP19  
19 has equivalent inhibitory properties, we injected it into *Xenopus* oocytes and monitored GVBD  
20 following progesterone stimulation. Whereas injection of XeARPP19 delayed meiosis  
21 resumption (2-fold increase in GVBD<sub>50</sub>) and fully inhibited GVBD in 35% of oocytes (Fig. 5A-C,  
22 Supp Fig. S5), injection of the same amount (800 ng) of ClyARPP19 had no effect on the timing  
23 of GVBD, with 100% of oocytes injected with ClyARPP19 showing a similar time-course to  
24 uninjected oocytes (Fig. 5A-C, Supp Fig. S5).

25 How PKA-phosphorylated XeARPP19 inhibits meiosis resumption in *Xenopus* is not yet  
26 understood, but must involve unidentified cis or trans interactions specific to this form that  
27 somehow prevent initiation of the Cdk1 and MAPK activation cascades (Dupre & Jessus, 2017;  
28 Dupre *et al.*, 2017; Labbe *et al.*, 2021). We reasoned that the lack of inhibitory activity of  
29 ClyARPP19 in the *Xenopus* oocyte could reflect its inability to recognise targets of the *Xenopus*  
30 protein and/or less efficient phosphorylation by PKA. To address the first hypothesis, we took  
31 advantage of phosphomimetic mutant proteins. The S109D-XeARPP19 mutant mimics  
32 constitutive phosphorylation on S109 and inhibits meiotic resumption (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). We  
33 produced ClyARPP19 with the equivalent mutation, S81D, and compared the effects of  
34 progesterone following injection into *Xenopus* oocytes (Fig. 5D-F, Supp Fig. S5). While S109D-  
35 XeARPP19 fully abolished Pg-induced GVBD, S81D-ClyARPP19 did not, although the time  
36 course of meiosis resumption was delayed (1.5-fold increase in GVBD<sub>50</sub> compared to  
37 uninjected oocytes or oocytes injected with wild-type ClyARPP19) (Fig. 5D-F, Supp Fig. S5). In  
38 all experiments, the observed effects were confirmed molecularly by monitoring the  
39 phosphorylation of MAPK and Cdk1 (Fig. 5G). Hence, ClyARPP19, when phosphorylated on  
40 S81, has a weaker inhibitory activity on meiosis resumption than its *Xenopus* counterpart,  
41 suggesting that it cannot effectively recognise XeARPP19 targets.

1 This lack of recognition could have two origins: either equivalent ARPP19 interactors are  
2 present in *Clytia* oocytes but their *Xenopus* counterparts are too divergent in sequence to be  
3 recognized by ClyARPP19, or they are absent in *Clytia* oocytes. To address this question, we  
4 injected the S81D phospho-mimetic mutant protein into *Clytia* oocytes, which were then  
5 stimulated with MIH. Neither this mutant protein nor wild-type ClyARPP19 affected meiotic  
6 resumption, as seen by GVBD in all cases (Fig. 5H). Furthermore, neither S109D-XeARPP19 nor  
7 wild-type XeARPP19 affected meiotic resumption in *Clytia* oocytes (Fig. 5H). Although we  
8 cannot rule out that the amount of protein injected was insufficient to compete with  
9 endogenous pools, these results support the hypothesis that specific interactors of PKA-  
10 phosphorylated ARPP19 that prevent entry of *Xenopus* oocytes into first meiotic M-phase are  
11 absent from *Clytia* oocytes. They do not exclude the possibility that ClyARPP19 is  
12 phosphorylated only weakly or not at all by PKA *in vivo* in *Clytia* oocytes.

13

#### 14 **Inefficient S81 phosphorylation of ClyARPP19 in *Xenopus* oocyte extracts**

15 We addressed the efficiency of S81 phosphorylation by PKA of ClyARPP19 compared to S109  
16 of XeARPP19 using extracts from prophase-arrested *Xenopus* oocytes, in which PKA is active.  
17 Purified GST-tagged ClyARPP19 or XeARPP19 proteins were incubated in extracts pre-  
18 incubated or not with PKI, a specific inhibitor of PKA. S81 phosphorylation of ClyARPP19 and  
19 S109 phosphorylation of XeARPP19 were monitored by western blot using anti-phospho-  
20 antibodies that specifically recognize phospho-S81-ClyARPP19 and phospho-S109-XeARPP19  
21 (Fig. 6A, Supp Fig. S6). S109 phosphorylation of XeARPP19 was detected after only 5 minutes  
22 of incubation and then increased during the following 15 minutes (Fig. 6A). This  
23 phosphorylation was totally abolished in the presence of PKI (Fig. 6A), confirming that  
24 XeARPP19 is efficiently phosphorylated by PKA at the prophase stage (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). In  
25 contrast, S81 phosphorylation of ClyARPP19 was not detected by the anti-phospho-S81  
26 antibody in either condition (Fig. 6A; compare with the positive control of ClyARPP19 *in vitro*  
27 phosphorylated by PKA after a 2 hour-incubation). We conclude that in *Xenopus* prophase  
28 oocyte extracts, ClyARPP19 is not detectably phosphorylated on S81, whereas XeARPP19  
29 shows phosphorylation on S109 strictly dependent of PKA.

30 Two possible mechanisms can account for the absence of ClyARPP19 detectable  
31 phosphorylation on S81 in *Xenopus* oocyte extracts. Either S81 of ClyARPP19 is rapidly  
32 dephosphorylated by a phosphatase and/or the ability of PKA to phosphorylate ClyARPP19 is  
33 lower than for the *Xenopus* counterpart as already observed in the assays using purified PKA  
34 (see above). To address the first mechanism, we measured the dephosphorylation rate of  
35 ARPP19 proteins. We produced ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 phosphorylated on S81 and S109  
36 respectively by a 4 hours *in vitro* incubation with PKA. In order to compare the  
37 dephosphorylation of equivalent starting amounts of phosphorylated ClyARPP19 and  
38 XeARPP19, their phosphorylation levels were calibrated as shown in Supp Fig. S7. The  
39 prophase oocyte extracts were supplemented with PKI to inhibit PKA activity and with  
40 hexokinase/glucose to deplete ATP and thus eliminate any kinase activity. S81-  
41 phosphorylated-ClyARPP19 or S109-phosphorylated-XeARPP19 were added to these kinase-

1 dead oocyte extracts, and aliquots were collected over time to estimate ARPP19  
2 dephosphorylation using specific phospho-antibodies. As shown in Fig. 6B-D, 50%  
3 dephosphorylation was reached in 7 minutes for XeARPP19 and 28 minutes for ClyARPP19,  
4 meaning that XeARPP19 was dephosphorylated 4 times faster than ClyArpp19. Hence, for the  
5 same starting amount of phosphorylated proteins and in the absence of any kinase activity,  
6 the *Clytia* protein is dephosphorylated less efficiently than its *Xenopus* counterpart (Fig. 6A-D  
7 and Supp Fig. S8), indicating that ClyARPP19 is a poor substrate of the phosphatase specific of  
8 the S81 residue.

9 It has been shown that in *Xenopus*, ARPP19 is dephosphorylated on S109 by PP2A-  
10 B55 $\delta$  (Lemonnier *et al.*, 2021). To verify that this PP2A isoform also dephosphorylates  
11 ClyARPP19, the dephosphorylation assay was repeated in prophase oocyte extracts depleted  
12 in PP2A-B55 $\delta$ . Extracts were incubated with beads coupled to both a specific anti-B55 $\delta$   
13 antibody (Supp Fig. S9) and the S67-thio-phosphorylated form of XeARPP19 (thio-S67-  
14 ARPP19), which acts as a specific inhibitor of the PP2A-B55 $\delta$  isoform (Gharbi-Ayachi *et al.*,  
15 2010; Mochida *et al.*, 2010). To avoid any side-effects from the S109 residue of the thio-S67-  
16 ARPP19 inhibitor, we produced a S109A mutant, called thio-S67-S109A-ARPP19. We assessed  
17 that the level of B55 $\delta$  was reduced in the extracts after removal of the beads (Fig. 7A).  
18 Dephosphorylation of ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 was estimated after a 45 min-incubation in  
19 these depleted extracts. As shown in Fig. 7, XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 dephosphorylation on  
20 S109 and S81 respectively were strongly reduced.

21 Taken together these results show that ClyARPP19 is dephosphorylated on S81 by PP2A-B55 $\delta$   
22 much less efficiently than the *Xenopus* protein. This implies that the absence of S81  
23 phosphorylation in the prophase oocyte extract (Fig. 6A) is not due to hyper active  
24 dephosphorylation but rather to poor phosphorylation by PKA.

25

## 26 **ClyARPP19 is poorly phosphorylated by PKA *in vitro* and *in vivo***

27 We compared PKA phosphorylation of ClyARPP19 versus XeARPP19 first *in vitro* using  
28 recombinant bovine PKA, and then *in vivo* by injection into *Xenopus* and *Clytia* oocytes. To  
29 assess the *in vitro* phosphorylation rate of purified ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19, the proteins  
30 were thio-phosphorylated by using  $\gamma$ S-ATP, enabling us to make direct comparisons using a  
31 single antibody targeting thio-phosphates rather than using separate species-specific  
32 phospho-antibodies. ClyARPP19 or XeARPP19 were incubated with recombinant PKA and  $\gamma$ S-  
33 ATP and samples were collected at successive times up to 60 min (Fig. 8A). Thio-  
34 phosphorylation of XeARPP19 was detected after 5 min of incubation with PKA and increased  
35 until 60 min. In contrast, ClyARPP19 thiophosphorylation only started to be detected at 30  
36 min. Quantification of 3 independent experiments determined that ClyARPP19 is indeed  
37 phosphorylated by PKA less efficiently than XeARPP19 (Fig. 8B-C, Supp Fig. S10). 50% of  
38 XeARPP19 was phosphorylated within 18 minutes whereas the extrapolation of the curve  
39 indicates that it would take 148 minutes to reach the same level for ClyARPP19, showing that  
40 thio-phosphorylation of XeARPP19 is 8 times faster than that of ClyARPP19 (Fig. 8C).  
41 ClyARPP19 is thus a relatively poor substrate of purified PKA.

1 To assess phosphorylation of ARPP19 proteins in intact oocytes, ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19  
2 were first injected into *Xenopus* prophase-arrested oocytes. Oocytes were collected 30 min  
3 later and phosphorylation of the PKA sites were estimated by western blot (Fig. 9A, Supp Fig.  
4 S11). For each of 3 experiments (A, B and C), 3 pools of 5 oocytes were analyzed, with *in vitro*  
5 thiophosphorylated forms of ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 included as positive controls. Injected  
6 XeARPP19 became phosphorylated on S109 in the oocyte, and this phosphorylation was  
7 prevented by prior injection of PKI, confirming that PKA is entirely responsible for it (Fig. 9). In  
8 contrast, no phosphorylation on S81 of injected ClyARPP19 was detected, despite the fact that  
9 the protein remained stable in the oocytes and detectable by anti-GST antibodies (Fig. 9).  
10 These results show that, while XeARPP19 is actively phosphorylated by PKA in prophase-  
11 arrested *Xenopus* oocytes, ClyARPP19 is not.

12 The catalytic subunit of PKA (PKA-C) is highly conserved in the animal kingdom, the sequence  
13 being almost identical across species (Supp Fig. S12). The few differences in the sequences lie  
14 outside the critical motifs of PKA (catalytic loop, activation loop, Mg<sup>2+</sup>-binding loop or the two  
15 P-loops, Supp Fig. S12). Hence, it is unlikely that divergence between the catalytic subunits of  
16 the kinase prevents *Xenopus* or bovine PKA from phosphorylating ClyARPP19 in the  
17 experiments reported above, or *Clytia* PKA from phosphorylating XeARPP19. PKA activation in  
18 hydrozoan oocytes is induced by MIH (Amiel & Houliston, 2009; Deguchi *et al.*, 2011; Takeda  
19 *et al.*, 2006). We confirmed the increased PKA activity following MIH stimulation in *Clytia*  
20 oocytes using an antibody recognizing the phosphorylated PKA consensus site, which detected  
21 a set of protein bands more strongly in *Clytia* oocytes harvested 15 minutes post-MIH than in  
22 non-stimulated oocytes (Fig. 3A, B). Furthermore, a specific phospho-S109-XeARPP19  
23 antibody detected phosphorylation of XeARPP19 injected into *Clytia* oocytes following MIH  
24 stimulation (Fig. 3A). In contrast, a distinct phospho-S81-ClyARPP19 antibody detected weak  
25 phosphorylation of exogenous ClyARPP19 injected to *Clytia* both before and after MIH, with  
26 no increase in signal intensity (Fig. 3B).

27 These experiments together demonstrate that *Clytia* ARPP19 is inherently a poorer PKA  
28 substrate than *Xenopus* ARPP109 both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, despite the presence of a functional  
29 PKA site. The endogenous rise in PKA activity in *Clytia* in MIH-stimulated oocytes likely  
30 generates little or no phosphorylation on this site.

31

## 1 DISCUSSION

2 Maintenance and release of the prophase arrest of oocytes play a critical role in metazoan  
3 sexual reproduction. Correct regulation of these processes is of prime importance for the  
4 subsequent transformation of ovarian oocytes into fertilisable haploid eggs equipped with the  
5 maternal reserves necessary for early embryogenesis. cAMP and PKA activity play a central  
6 role in controlling the prophase arrest in many species, but with opposite roles in vertebrates  
7 versus many invertebrates (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011; Jesus *et al.*, 2020). Since ARPP19 is one of  
8 the substrates mediating the negative role of PKA on meiosis resumption in *Xenopus* (Dupre  
9 *et al.*, 2014; Lemonnier *et al.*, 2021), we conducted a comparative study of the  
10 phosphorylation and function of ARPP19 homologues between *Xenopus* and a species where  
11 PKA plays an opposite role, the hydrozoan jellyfish *Clytia* (Amiel & Houliston, 2009; Freeman  
12 & Ridgway, 1988; Takeda *et al.*, 2006). Although a consensus sequence for phosphorylation  
13 by PKA can be recognised in both species, we show here by *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches  
14 that ClyARPP19 is a weak substrate of the two enzymes that regulate its phosphorylation in  
15 *Xenopus*, PKA and PP2A-B55 $\delta$ . Furthermore, the targets of XeARPP19 that allow it to exert its  
16 negative control of meiosis resumption are not present in the *Clytia* oocyte. As discussed  
17 below, these findings provide an evolutionary perspective on the control of the release of the  
18 oocyte prophase arrest by PKA.

19 The evolutionary history of the ARPP19 PKA site contrasts with that of the site phosphorylated  
20 by the kinase, Gwl (Gharbi-Ayachi *et al.*, 2010; Mochida *et al.*, 2010). The Gwl phosphorylation  
21 motif is highly conserved across eukaryotes and can be used as a hallmark of the ARPP19/ENSA  
22 family (Labandera *et al.*, 2015). It is well established that across a very wide range of  
23 eukaryotic species including yeast and man, the serine of this short sequence is  
24 phosphorylated by Gwl, converting ARPP19 into an inhibitor of PP2A-B55 $\delta$  that is essential for  
25 Cdk1 activation and M-phase completion (Castro & Lorca, 2018; Haccard & Jesus, 2011). Our  
26 work confirms that phosphorylation by Gwl of the central serine of this motif in ClyARPP19,  
27 S49, inhibits PP2A-B55 $\delta$  activity. This property can be correlated with the conservation of  
28 several basic (K or R) residues flanking the Gwl site across eukaryotic species, previously  
29 reported to serve as a recognition signal for PP2A-B55 (Cundell *et al.*, 2016; Labbe *et al.*, 2021).  
30 Other conserved features of the ARPP19 proteins may have roles in modulating their  
31 phosphorylation by Gwl and thereby PP2A inhibition in different physiological contexts.  
32 Common sequences conserved across animal groups and even more widely, are candidates  
33 for such roles. A GxxxPTPxx $\phi$ P sequence is present across the opisthokonts, although it has  
34 degenerated in some animal lineages including ctenophores and sponges, while a C-terminal  
35 SxL sequence can be detected in species across all metazoan groups and amongst their closest  
36 unicellular relatives. It would be interesting in the future to address the significance of these  
37 sites by functional studies.

38 The XeARPP19 sequence contains only one site fitting the PKA phosphorylation consensus  
39 (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). In contrast to the Gwl site, this site of PKA phosphorylation is not an  
40 ancient eukaryotic feature. We found the central serine in ARPP19 sequences from a range  
41 metazoan species, including from the most basally branching clade *Ctenophora* (Schultz *et al.*,

1 2023), but no phosphorylatable residues at this position in ARPP19 proteins from non-  
2 metazoan species including choanoflagellates, plant and fungi. Under the likely scenario that  
3 ctenophores are the sister to all other animals (Schultz *et al.*, 2023), this suggests that PKA  
4 phosphorylation of ARPP19 arose in a common metazoan ancestor, with rapid evolution of  
5 the C-ter half of the protein within the sponge clade leading to loss of this site as well as the  
6 GxxxPTPxxφP motif (but not the C-terminal SxL). We have shown that this site is indeed  
7 phosphorylatable by PKA in a cnidarian ARPP19, from *Clytia hemisphaerica*. The emergence  
8 of a functional PKA phosphorylation site as a feature of ARPP19 proteins early during the  
9 emergence of metazoans and its subsequent maintenance across the clade of Eumetazoans  
10 (Cnidaria and Bilateria), suggests that phosphorylation on this site is involved in an important  
11 biological process common to these animals. One possibility is that it relates to the emergence  
12 of neural cell types in animals. ARPP19 and its splice-variant, ARPP16, were initially discovered  
13 in mammals as substrates of PKA in dopaminergic neurons of the striatum (Dulubova *et al.*,  
14 2001; Horiuchi *et al.*, 1990). Since then, it has been shown that a complex antagonistic  
15 interplay between the control of ARPP16 by Gwl and PKA regulates key components of the  
16 striatal signaling by a mechanism whereby cAMP mediates PP2A disinhibition (Andrade *et al.*,  
17 2017; Musante *et al.*, 2017). In the *Clytia* medusa, ARPP19 is expressed in the nerve rings that  
18 run around the bell margin as well as in ovarian oocytes. Thus, the appearance of the PKA site  
19 in the ARPP19 proteins at the time of the emergence of metazoans could have participated,  
20 thanks to its interaction with the pre-existing Gwl site, in the establishment of neural-type  
21 communication systems, which have been largely lost in sponges but have diversified in  
22 parallel in ctenophores (Burkhardt *et al.*, 2023).

23 We have addressed another critical physiological feature common to all metazoans, the  
24 oocyte prophase arrest, which is regulated by PKA through the phosphorylation of ARPP19 in  
25 *Xenopus* (Lemonnier *et al.*, 2020). In *Clytia*, PKA activation is required for release from  
26 prophase and Cdk1 activation (Amiel & Houlston, 2009; Freeman & Ridgway, 1988; Takeda *et al.*,  
27 2006). If ClyARPP19 was phosphorylated by PKA as in *Xenopus*, and if the targets of the  
28 PKA-phosphorylated form were expressed in the *Clytia* oocyte, how to explain that the protein  
29 does not block meiosis resumption in the *Clytia* oocyte as it does in *Xenopus*? In this paper we  
30 uncover two main explanations for this apparent paradox. First, the ability of PKA to  
31 phosphorylate ClyARPP19 is lower than for the *Xenopus* orthologue, both *in vitro*, in oocyte  
32 extracts and in the oocyte. *Xenopus* and *Clytia* catalytic subunits of PKA being almost identical,  
33 the differences in the ability of *Xenopus* and *Clytia* ARPP19 to become phosphorylated should  
34 reflect the ARPP19 sequences. Similarly, ClyARPP19 is a poor substrate of the phosphatase(s)  
35 acting on the PKA phosphosite, mainly PP2A-B55δ. Hence, in contrast to *Xenopus*, the two  
36 antagonistic enzymes controlling S81 phosphorylation are not very effective towards *Clytia*  
37 ARPP19. Unsurprisingly, the activity of the two enzymes is balanced, preventing their  
38 substrate from being in a permanent state of phosphorylation or dephosphorylation. On the  
39 other hand, the affinity of the two antagonistic enzymes for ARPP19 is very different in these  
40 species despite the presence of a similar motif, endowed with the characteristics of a PKA  
41 consensus site. This highlights the importance of studying in more detail variations within the

1 consensus motif and in their surrounding sequences that may modulate its affinity for PKA  
2 and PP2A-B55 $\delta$ , as was done for Gwl flanking sequences (Cundell *et al.*, 2016; Labbe *et al.*,  
3 2021). It would also be instructive to analyse PKA phosphorylatability of ARPP19 proteins from  
4 other species previously demonstrated to show cAMP-induced oocyte maturation, such as the  
5 annelid *Pseudopotamilla* and the brittle star *Amphipholis* (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011). Another  
6 avenue of investigation would be to address the impact of PKA site regulation on the access  
7 of the Gwl site to its two regulatory enzymes, Gwl and PP2A-B55 $\delta$ . It is clear that feedback  
8 occurs between the two sites, but the sequence elements responsible for these interactions  
9 remain to be identified (Dupre *et al.*, 2017; Labbe *et al.*, 2021). Thus, a comparison between  
10 *Clytia* and *Xenopus* ARPP19, respectively offering a site of low or high affinity for the  
11 PKA/PP2A-B55 $\delta$  tandem, could shed light on the sequences outside the PKA and Gwl sites that  
12 regulate both their phosphorylation level and their reciprocal influences.

13 The low affinity of PKA for ClyARPP19 can explain why the protein does not interfere with the  
14 prophase release of the *Clytia* oocyte when PKA is activated by MIH. However, another  
15 mechanism relying on the ARPP19 interactors also protects the *Clytia* oocyte from a  
16 potentially negative action of S81-phosphorylated ARPP19. The nature of the proteins  
17 controlled by the S109 phosphorylation of XeARPP19 responsible for maintaining the  
18 prophase block in *Xenopus* oocytes remain unknown but their presence can be deduced  
19 experimentally. First, our results indicate that ClyARPP19 interacts only weakly with these  
20 *Xenopus* effectors since wild-type ClyARPP19 or a ClyARPP19 mutant mimicking a constitutive  
21 S81-phosphorylation are not as efficient as their *Xenopus* counterparts in blocking meiotic  
22 resumption of *Xenopus* oocytes. Second, they suggest that their *Clytia* homologs are not  
23 expressed or have divergent structures in *Clytia* oocytes since neither the injection of S81-  
24 phosphomimetic ClyARPP19 nor the injection of S109-phosphomimetic XeARPP19 prevented  
25 MIH-induced oocyte maturation in *Clytia*. In addition, Gwl-phosphorylated forms of *Xenopus*  
26 (S67) or of *Clytia* (S49) ARPP19 were not able to trigger meiotic resumption of *Clytia* oocytes,  
27 supporting the hypothesis that additional mechanisms lock the resting *Clytia* oocyte in a  
28 prophase state. OA, which has a broader spectrum towards PP2A isoforms than ARPP19  
29 (Dounay & Forsyth, 2002), was also unable to induce GVBD when injected into *Clytia* oocytes,  
30 but did provoke cortical contractions and lysis likely reflecting PP2A regulation of the actin  
31 cytoskeleton as reported in other cells (Basu, 2011; Hoffman *et al.*, 2017). Taken together, our  
32 results suggest that the low capacity of *Clytia* ARPP19 to be phosphorylated by PKA combined  
33 with the absence of functional interactors mediating its negative effects on Cdk1 activation  
34 may provide a double security allowing induction of meiosis resumption in *Clytia* by elevated  
35 PKA activity despite the presence of ARPP19, while additional as yet unidentified mechanisms  
36 ensure the *Clytia* oocyte prophase arrest.

37 What can we conclude from this study about the evolution of oocyte maturation initiation  
38 mechanisms? It is likely that the ancestral ARPP19 was expressed in oocytes of early  
39 metazoans to ensure MPF activation through its highly conserved eukaryotic role in the  
40 Gwl/PP2A regulatory circuit, and this ancestral ARPP19 had a “prototype” PKA  
41 phosphorylation site (Fig. 10), but it remains to be established how strongly this was regulated



1 and its role in the oocyte. One scenario consistent with our findings is that in the earliest  
2 metazoan, the ARPP19 proteins present in the oocyte had no role in the maturation initiation  
3 step; cAMP-PKA would have played a positive role in initiating oocyte maturation, perhaps  
4 relating to an ancient involvement of a GPCR related to the *Clytia* MIH receptor (Quiroga  
5 Artigas *et al.*, 2020). Such ARPP19-independent cAMP/PKA-activated oocyte maturation  
6 initiation would have been maintained in hydrozoan cnidarians and in some protostomes (eg  
7 *Spisula* and *Pseudopotamilla*) and non-vertebrate deuterostomes (eg *Amphipholis* and  
8 *Boltenia*). Maturation initiation is tightly linked to spawning/ovulation and so its regulation  
9 would have been modulated repeatedly during evolution in relation to the ecology and  
10 ethology of each species (for instance integrating the influence of daily and lunar cycles,  
11 nutritional availability, etc.) The emergence of the vertebrate lineage was accompanied by  
12 major changes in reproductive biology linked to the complexification of the hormone systems  
13 regulating ovulation (Deguchi *et al.*, 2011; Quiroga Artigas *et al.*, 2020). If cAMP-PKA activation  
14 of oocyte maturation was indeed ancestral, this ancient initiation mechanism would have  
15 become over-ridden by an alternative regulation in which cAMP-PKA inhibits meiotic  
16 maturation. Under this scenario, the biochemical pathways within the oocyte linking the  
17 initiation trigger to Cdk1 activation would have undergone modifications during the  
18 emergence of the vertebrate lineage, including the co-option of ARPP19 for an inhibitory role  
19 under the control of cAMP-PKA. Whatever the ancestral situation for oocyte maturation  
20 control, it is highly likely that cAMP-PKA of ARPP19 initially arose during metazoan evolution  
21 for other functions, for instance in the nervous system. Consistent with this, we detected  
22 expression of ARPP19 in both the oocytes and the nerve ring of *Clytia* jellyfish.  
23 To address this hypothesis much remains to be clarified about the phylogenetic distribution  
24 of cAMP regulation modes of oocyte maturation initiation. From the relatively sparse available  
25 data it is already clear that this is quite patchy: not all protostome oocytes use cAMP-PKA to  
26 trigger meiosis resumption and not all deuterostome use cAMP-PKA to maintain the prophase  
27 block. Thus, whatever the ancestral situation, there were likely multiple acquisitions or losses  
28 of the activatory role of cAMP-PKA in oocyte meiotic maturation during the evolution of  
29 metazoans. We propose that the new and critical function in oocytes of vertebrates and of  
30 some other protostome lineages complemented existing roles for ARPP19 under the control  
31 of PKA, that emerged during early metazoan evolution (Fig. 10). More knowledge of the  
32 sequence modifications around the PKA site of ARPP19 and the identification of its binding  
33 partners will be important to understand fully these evolutionary transitions. This will increase  
34 our understanding of the function of ARPP19 in the control of oocyte meiosis, and more widely  
35 in the control of cell cycle progression and its dysfunction in pathologies related to fertility  
36 and cancer.  
37  
38

## 1 MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2 Material

3 *Xenopus laevis* adult females (Centre de Ressources Biologiques Xenopes, CNRS, France) were  
4 bred and maintained according to current French guidelines in the IBPS aquatic animal facility,  
5 with authorization: Animal Facility Agreement: #A75-05-25. All *Xenopus* experiments were  
6 subject to ethical review and approved by the French Ministry of Higher Education and  
7 Research (reference APAFIS#14127-2018031614373133v2). Sexually mature jellyfish were  
8 generated from laboratory-maintained *Clytia hemisphaerica* polyp colonies (“A strains” or “Z  
9 strains”) (Houliston *et al*, 2010). All reagents, unless otherwise specified, were from Roth.

10

### 11 *Xenopus* oocyte handling

12 *Xenopus laevis* stage VI oocytes (Dumont, 1972) were obtained from unprimed female. The  
13 edges of the ovarian lobes were collected from anesthetized *Xenopus* females (30 minutes  
14 bath in 1 g/l MS222 (Sigma). To obtain defolliculated fully-grown oocytes, pieces of ovaries  
15 were incubated for 3 hours in buffer M (10 mM HEPES pH 7.8, 88 mM NaCl, 1 mM KCl, 0.33  
16 mM Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 0.41 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.82 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>) in the presence of dispase (0.4 mg/ml) to  
17 weaken ovary connective tissues without altering oocyte integrity and potentiate the effect  
18 of collagenase used in the sub-sequent step. Oocytes were then washed in 1 liter of buffer M  
19 and incubated for 1 hour in the presence of collagenase (0.4 mg/ml) diluted in buffer M. After  
20 washing with 2 liters of buffer M to eliminate collagenase, the oocytes were sorted by size to  
21 collect stage VI (≈ 1200 μm of diameter). They were kept in buffer M at 16°C for experiments  
22 and then immediately lysed or stored at -80°C.

23 Prophase-arrested oocytes were micro-injected with the following recombinant proteins  
24 (injection volume: 50 nL per oocyte): 100 ng or 800 ng of GST-XeARPP19, GST-ClyARPP19, GST-  
25 S109D-XeARPP19 or GST-S81D-ClyARPP19; 200 ng of GST-S49thio-ClyARPP19 or GST-S67thio-  
26 XeARPP19; 75 ng of PKI.

27 Meiotic maturation was induced by 2 μM progesterone. Oocytes were referred to as GVBD  
28 when the first pigment rearrangement was detected at the animal pole. The percentage of  
29 oocytes at GVBD over the time, calculated for group of 20 to 30 injected oocytes, was then  
30 fitted with a four-parameter logistic regression whose the equation is the following:

31 
$$y = (x^{Hill\ slope}) \times \frac{100}{x^{Hill\ slope} + EC50^{Hill\ slope}}$$

32

### 33 *Clytia* oocyte handling

34 *Clytia hemisphaerica* fully grown (stage III) oocytes were obtained from manually isolated  
35 ovaries of jellyfish cultured overnight in MFSW (Millipore filtrated seawater). The harvested  
36 gonads in were opened lengthwise using fine tweezers. Oocytes were then recovered using  
37 0.3 μm diameter tungsten wire loops mounted on glass capillaries. Meiotic maturation was  
38 induced by MIH treatment (100 nM WPRP-NH<sub>2</sub>(Takeda *et al.*, 2018). GVBD was scored every  
39 5 minutes under Zeiss dissecting microscopes, or from time lapse films recorded using a Zeiss

1 Axiobserver with DIC optics. Protein injection into *Clytia* isolated oocytes was performed using  
2 Nanoject compressed air microinjection systems (Eppendorf) (Momose & Houliston, 2007) in  
3 continuous flow mode. Recombinant proteins and OA (Enzo Life Sciences) were diluted in PBS  
4 and centrifuged at 14,000 rpm at 4°C for 5 minutes before injection. Solutions of 2-4 mg/ml  
5 of each recombinant ARPP19 protein or 2  $\mu$ M OA were injected, aiming at a delivering 3-5%  
6 oocyte volume based on the size of the cloud of injected liquid. ADD

7

## 8 **Cloning and recombinant protein purification**

9 Construction of plasmids encoding GST-tagged XeARPP19, S109D-XeARPP19, S67A-XeARPP19  
10 and PKI were previously described (Dupre *et al.*, 2014). A cDNA fragment encoding full ORF of  
11 *Clytia* ARPP19, identified from gene models in the *Clytia* genome assembly and associated  
12 transcriptome data (Leclere *et al.*, 2019) (Supp Fig. S1A and S1C) was amplified by PCR from  
13 medusa gonad cDNA and subcloned into pGex4-T1 vector to express GST-tagged ClyARPP19.  
14 S49A, S81D, S82D and S81D-S82D-ClyARPP19 were generated according to the manufacturer  
15 protocol (Stratagene) and sequences were verified by DNA sequencing (Genewiz-Azenta,  
16 Germany). The cDNA of 6XHIS-tagged S109A-XeARPP19 has been subcloned into pET14b  
17 vector. Both vectors were used to transform BL21 strain of *E. coli* and GST-tagged or 6XHIS-  
18 tagged recombinant proteins were produced by autoinduction (Studier, 2005). Bacteria were  
19 lysed by sonification in PBS pH 7,4 (13.7 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 4.3 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1.4 mM  
20 Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>) with 1 mg/ml lysozyme in the presence of 10% Triton. After a brief centrifugation  
21 step, supernatants were loaded either onto an equilibrated glutathione-agarose column  
22 (Sigma) for GST-tagged protein or on Nickel beads column (Qiagen) for 6XHIS-tagged protein.  
23 Columns were then washed and eluted with respectively 10 mM glutathione in PBS or 160  
24 mM imidazole diluted in 1 M of  $\beta$ -glycerophosphate. The purified proteins were concentrated  
25 against polyethyleneglycol, dialyzed overnight against PBS and stored at -80°C.

26

## 27 ***Clytia in situ* hybridization**

28 For *in situ* hybridization, female jellyfish were fixed in 3.7% formaldehyde, 0.2%  
29 glutaraldehyde in PBS on ice for 60-120 min. They were then washed 5 times with PBST (PBS  
30 + 0.1% Tween20), dehydrated stepwise in methanol and stored in 100% methanol at -20°C.  
31 Hybridization (at 62°C for 72h) and washing steps were performed in a robot (Intavis AG,  
32 Bioanalytical Instruments) using 20X SSC pH adjusted to 4.7. Acetylation steps using 0.1M  
33 triethanolamine in PBST (2x5min), then 0.25% acetic anhydride in 0.1M triethanolamine  
34 (2x5min) followed by PBST washes (3x10min) were included before pre-hybridization to  
35 reduce probe non-specific binding. Incubation with Anti-DIG AP, 1:2000 in 1X blocking solution  
36 was performed for 3h and the NCB-BCIP performed at pH 9, monitoring colour development  
37 under the binocular microscope. Following post-fixation, washing and equilibration of samples  
38 in 50% glycerol/PBS, Images were acquired on an Olympus BX51 microscope.

39

## 40 **ARPP19 *in vitro* phosphorylation or thiophosphorylation by Gwl and PKA**

1 Active Gwl was obtained by injecting *Xenopus* prophase oocytes with mRNA encoding  
2 Histidine-tagged *Xenopus* K71M-Gwl (Dupre *et al.*, 2013). Oocytes were collected at  
3 metaphase II and K71M-Gwl was recovered by incubating the oocyte extract with Nickel beads  
4 in the presence of 1  $\mu$ M OA (Enzo Life Sciences). Nickel beads were washed in kinase buffer  
5 (20 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 2 mM 2-Mercaptoethanol). Recombinant 400  $\mu$ M GST-ARPP19 or  
6 6XHis-S109A-XeARPP19 was added to the beads in the presence of 1 mM  $\gamma$ S-ATP. The reaction  
7 was performed in a final volume of 60  $\mu$ L for 60 min at 30°C under stirring (750 RPM,  
8 Thermomixer, Eppendorf).  $\gamma$ S-ATP was removed by dialyzing the reaction mix against kinase  
9 buffer. For PKA thiophosphorylation, 3 nM of either XeARPP19 or various forms of ClyARPP19  
10 (stock solutions at 1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L) were incubated in the presence of 62.5 units of recombinant  
11 bovine PKA (Promega) and 1 mM  $\gamma$ S-ATP in a final volume of 30  $\mu$ L of PKA Buffer (20 mM HEPES  
12 pH 7.4, 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>), at 37°C under stirring (750 RPM, Thermomixer, Eppendorf). At  
13 indicated times, 5  $\mu$ L of reaction were sampled, supplemented with Laemmli buffer (Laemmli,  
14 1970) and heated for 1 minute at 90°C. To be detected by the thiophosphate-ester antibody,  
15 thiophosphates incorporated in proteins were then subjected to alkylation by incubation with  
16 1 mM P-nitrobenzyl mesylate (PNBM) (Cayman Chemical) for 1 hour at room temperature.  
17 Samples were then stored at -20°C. Positive controls of XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19  
18 phosphorylation used in various experiments were obtained by incubating 3 nM of XeARPP19  
19 and ClyARPP19 for respectively 30 and 180 minutes to reach a similar thiophosphorylation  
20 level for both proteins. In some experiments, XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 were phosphorylated  
21 by PKA. 100 ng of either XeARPP19 or ClyARPP19 were incubated with 200  $\mu$ M ATP and 25  
22 units of recombinant bovine PKA (Promega) in PKA Buffer for 3 hours at 37°C under 1200 RPM  
23 stirring. The reaction was stopped by Laemmli buffer (Laemmli, 1970) and heating for 1 minute  
24 at 90°C.

25

## 26 **ARPP19 phosphorylation and dephosphorylation in *Xenopus* oocyte extract**

27 Prophase-arrested oocytes were lysed in 10 volumes of Extraction buffer (80 mM  $\beta$ -  
28 glycerophosphate pH 7.3, 20 mM EGTA, 15 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>). Lysates were centrifuged for 15  
29 minutes at 12,000 rpm and 4°C and the supernatant was then used as the “oocyte extract”.  
30 For PKA phosphorylation, 50 ng (25  $\mu$ M) of either GST-XeARPP19 or GST-ClyARPP19 (stock  
31 solution of 1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ L) were added in 50  $\mu$ L of prophase extract previously incubated 30 min or  
32 not with 75 ng PKI, and further incubated at 30°C, under 750 RPM stirring. 5  $\mu$ L of extract were  
33 sampled every 5 minutes, supplemented with Laemmli buffer (Laemmli, 1970), heated at 90°C  
34 for 1 minute and stored at -20°C. To measure ARPP19 dephosphorylation, “kinase-dead”  
35 oocyte extracts, were generated by addition of 75 ng PKI, 0,1 units/ml hexokinase (Sigma) and  
36 10 mM glucose to deplete endogenous ATP (Newmeyer *et al.*, 1986) followed by a 1 hour  
37 incubation at 18°C. In some experiments, kinase-dead extracts were incubated 3 consecutive  
38 times with protein A-beads (Bio-Rad) previously coated with the anti-B55 $\delta$  antibody (1 hour  
39 incubation at 4°C, followed by extensive washes) and Nickel beads (Qiagen) coated with 400  
40  $\mu$ g of 6XHis-S67thio-S109A-XeARPP19. The extract was then incubated with protein A-beads

1 to deplete free IgG against B55δ. 250 ng of GST-phosphoS109-XeARPP19 or GST-phosphoS81-  
2 ClyARPP19 (stock solution of 1 μg/μL) were then added in 4 μL of kinase-dead oocyte extract  
3 and incubated at 30°C under 1250 RPM stirring. 3 μL of extract were collected every 5 minutes,  
4 supplemented with Laemmli buffer (Laemmli, 1970), heated and stored at -20°C. All western  
5 blot signals were quantified using Image J software. In assays using recombinant GST-ARPP19,  
6 each phosphorylation or thiophosphorylation signal was divided by the corresponding GST  
7 signal to obtain a ratio (normalized signals).

8 *Dephosphorylation assays (Figs 2 and 6)*: the normalized signals were standardized on the time  
9 0 minute that was set as 100% of phosphorylation. Standardized signals were fitted with a  
10 one-phase decay equation (Supp Fig. S8):

$$11 \quad y = 100 \times e^{(-Kx)}$$

12 The half-time for each experiment, defined as the time of 50% of dephosphorylation, was  
13 calculated with the following equation (Supp Fig. S8):

$$14 \quad half\ life = \frac{\ln(2)}{K}$$

15 Comparison of the half-times of dephosphorylation between XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 was  
16 done by applying a paired T-test.

17 *Phosphorylation assays (Fig. 8)*: the normalized signals were standardized on the time 60  
18 minutes of XeARPP19 that was considered as 100% phosphorylation. Standardized signals  
19 were fitted with a one-phase association equation (Supp Fig. S10):

$$20 \quad y = 100 \times (1 - e^{(-Kx)})$$

21 For each experiment, the half-time is defined as the time of 50% of phosphorylation and was  
22 calculated with the following equation (Supp Fig. S10):

$$23 \quad half\ time = \frac{\ln(2)}{K}$$

24 Comparison of the half-times of phosphorylation between XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 was  
25 done by applying a paired T-test. \*: P≤0.05; \*\*: P≤0.01; \*\*\*: P≤0.001; \*\*\*\*: P≤0.0001;  
26 P>0.05: not significant (ns).

27

## 28 **Antibodies and western blots**

29 The equivalent of 0.5 oocyte or 50 ng of Xe-ARPP19 and ClyARPP19 (*in vitro* and *in vivo*  
30 phosphorylation/dephosphorylation assays) were loaded on 12% acrylamide gel, subjected to  
31 SDS gel electrophoresis (Laemmli, 1970) and then transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes  
32 (Dupre *et al.*, 2002). The antibodies directed against the following proteins were used:  
33 phosphoS109-XeARPP19 (Dupre *et al.*, 2014) (1:100,000 for *Xenopus* proteins or 1:500 for  
34 *Clytia* proteins), phosphoS81-ClyARPP19 (1:160,000 for *Xenopus* proteins or 1:500 after retro-  
35 elution for *Clytia* proteins, see Supp Fig. S6 for validation), B55δ (see Supp Fig. S9 for  
36 validation), thiophosphate ester (1:60,000, Abcam ab92570), GST (1:5,000, Sigma A-7340),  
37 karyopherin (1:1,000, Santa-Cruz biotechnology sc-1863), phospho-MAPK (1:1,000, Cell  
38 Signaling 9106), phosphoY15-Cdk1 (1:1,000, Cell Signaling 9111) and phosphorylated-PKA  
39 substrates (1:1000, Cell Signaling 9624). After overnight incubation at 4°C, nitrocellulose

1 membranes were incubated 1 hour at room temperature in the appropriate horse-radish  
2 peroxidase-labeled secondary antibodies (Jackson ImmunoResearch) and revealed by  
3 chemiluminescence (Pierce). All western blots are representative of at least three different  
4 experiments.

5

#### 6 **Bioinformatics and sequence alignments**

7 ARPP19 protein sequences were retrieved from public databases. Accession numbers along  
8 with the *Clytia* ARPP19 protein and transcript sequence are provided in Supp Fig. S1.  
9 Alignments of different subsets of sequences were made using Clustal Omega on the EBI  
10 portal ([www.ebi.ac.uk](http://www.ebi.ac.uk)) and then compared and adjusted by eye.

11

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30

1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2

3 **Figure 1. The conservation of the PKA site of ARPP19 is restricted to the animal kingdom.**

4 **(A)** Comparison of ARPP19 protein sequences from a selection of eukaryotic species (right).  
5 The Gwl (F-D-S\*-G-D-Y) and PKA (R/K-R/K-X-S\*/T\*) phosphorylation sites, the GxxxPTPxxφP  
6 sequence and the SxL terminal motif are colored in green, purple, yellow blue and red  
7 respectively. Residues in yellow and grey may vary from one species to another. The  
8 phylogenetic tree on the left indicates relationships between the main eukaryotic clades to  
9 which these species belong, adapted from (Grau-Bove *et al*, 2017). Additional sequence  
10 alignments and all accession numbers are provided in Supp Figs. S1 and S2.

11 **(B)** Alignments of ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 (same color code as in A). The Gwl (F-D-S\*-G-D-  
12 Y) and PKA (R/K-R/K-X- S\*/T\*) phosphorylation sites identified in XeARPP19 are conserved in  
13 ClyARPP19. S67 and S109 correspond to the serines phosphorylated by Gwl and PKA  
14 respectively in XeARPP19. Their equivalents are respectively S49 and S81 in ClyARPP19. They  
15 are indicated by an arrow.

16 **(C)** *In situ* hybridization detecting ClyARPP19 mRNA in a female baby medusa (left) and an  
17 adult isolated ovary (right). G= gonad; nr= nerve ring; tb= tentacle bulb; man: manubrium  
18 (feeding organ); vo = vitellogenic oocytes; pvo= pre-vitellogenic oocytes. Scale bar= 100µm.

19

20 **Figure 2. XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 thio-phosphorylated on the Gwl site induce meiosis**  
21 **resumption in *Xenopus* oocytes and inhibit PP2A.**

22 **(A)** GVBD time-course of oocytes stimulated or not by progesterone (Pg) or injected with 200  
23 ng of either GST-S67thio-XeARPP19 or GST-S49thio-ClyARPP19. One representative  
24 experiment out of 3 is shown.

25 **(B)** Oocytes from the experiment illustrated in (A) were collected at GVBD and lysates were  
26 immunoblotted for karyopherin as a loading control, GST (tag of ARPP19 proteins),  
27 phosphorylated MAPK (pMAPK) and Y15-phosphorylated Cdk1 (pY15-Cdk1). The experiment  
28 was repeated 3 times with similar results.

29 **(C)** *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts were incubated with hexokinase/glucose and PKI.  
30 Extracts were supplemented or not with S49-thiophosphorylated ClyARPP19 for 5 min, then  
31 with C-ter-XeARPP19 phosphorylated on S109 as a substrate. At indicated times, the  
32 phosphorylation of C-ter-XeARPP19 was analyzed by western blot with antibodies raised  
33 against phosphoS109-XeARPP19. The total amount of the substrate and of ClyARPP19 were  
34 detected by an anti-GST antibody. Karyopherin was used as a loading control.

35 **(D)** Quantification of the phosphorylation level of C-ter-XeARPP19 of 3 independent  
36 experiments performed as in (C). The dashed lines correspond to the mean of the 3  
37 experiments.

38 **(E)** Comparison of the half-time dephosphorylation of C-ter-XeARPP19 calculated from 3  
39 independent experiments performed as in (C), each represented by a dot. Paired T-test no  
40 treatment/S49thio-ClyARPP19 half-time Pvalue = 0.0388.

41

1 **Figure 3. Phosphorylation and effects of XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19, or OA, on maturation in**  
2 ***Clytia* oocytes.**

3 **(A)** GST-XeARPP19 (3mg/ml) or control buffer were injected in *Clytia* prophase-arrested  
4 oocytes. One hour after injection, MIH was added or not. Oocytes were collected either at  
5 GVBD (15 minutes after MIH addition), or at the prophase stage (without MIH). Lysates were  
6 immunoblotted with antibodies against GST, phosphoS67-XeARPP19, phosphoS109-  
7 XeARPP19 and phosphoPKA substrates.

8 **(B)** GST-ClyARPP19 (3mg/ml) or control buffer were injected in *Clytia* prophase-arrested  
9 oocytes. One hour after injection, MIH was added or not. Oocytes were collected either at  
10 GVBD (15 minutes after MIH addition), or at the prophase stage (without MIH). Lysates were  
11 immunoblotted with antibodies against GST, phosphoS67-XeARPP19, phosphoS81-ClyARPP19  
12 and phosphoPKA substrates.

13 **(C)** Summary of experiments in which GST-XeARPP19 (4mg/ml), GST-ClyARPP19 (4mg/ml), OA  
14 (2 $\mu$ M) or control buffer were injected into *Clytia* prophase-arrested oocytes. Within one hour  
15 after injection, contractions followed by the lysis of the oocytes were observed in some cases  
16 (purple). The percentage of oocytes exhibiting this cytological effect is indicated. In other  
17 experiments, MIH (10<sup>-7</sup> M WPRP-amide) was added and GVBD was monitored. The percentage  
18 of oocytes that underwent GVBD in the absence (spontaneous GVBD, orange) or in the  
19 presence (MIH-induced GVBD, red) of MIH is indicated. Each point represents one experiment.  
20 The average of the experiments (A) is indicated for each condition. Full details and data for  
21 these experiments is provided in Supplementary Table 1.

22

23 **Figure 4. Identification of the ClyARPP19 residue phosphorylated by PKA.**

24 **(A)** Summary of the different mutations introduced into ClyARPP19.

25 **(B)** Wild-type (WT), single or double mutants of ClyARPP19 at S81 and S82 (S81D, S82D and  
26 S81D-S82D) were thiophosphorylated *in vitro* using recombinant bovine PKA catalytic subunit  
27 in the presence of  $\gamma$ S-ATP for 2 hours. The thiophosphorylation was analyzed by western-blot  
28 with an anti-thiophosphate ester antibody. The levels of ClyARPP19 proteins were detected  
29 with an anti-GST antibody. The experiment was repeated 3 times with similar results.

30

31 **Figure 5. ClyARPP19 and XeARPP19 phosphorylated on the PKA sites modulate oocyte**  
32 **meiosis resumption.**

33 **(A)** GVBD time course of oocytes injected with either XeARPP19 or ClyARPP19 (800 ng/oocyte)  
34 and then stimulated by Pg. One representative experiment from 4 independent experiments  
35 is shown.

36 **(B)** Time to reach 50% GVBD for the 3 conditions of panel (A). Ordinary one-way ANOVA  
37 analysis: XeARPP19/Pg Pvalue=0.0005, ClyARPP19/Pg Pvalue=0.8593 (ns). Each dot represents  
38 an independent experiment.

39 **(C)** % of GVBD 9 hours after Pg addition for the 3 conditions of panel (A). Ordinary one-way  
40 ANOVA: XeARPP19/Pg Pvalue=0.0009, ClyARPP19/Pg Pvalue=0.9093 (ns). Each dot represents  
41 an independent experiment.

1 **(D)** Same experiment as in (A) with injection of S109D-XeARPP19 or S81D-ClyARPP19 (800  
2 ng/oocyte). One representative experiment from 4 independent experiments is shown.

3 **(E)** Time to reach 50% GVBD for the 3 conditions of panel (D). Note that S109D-XeARPP19  
4 injected oocytes never reached GVBD. Ordinary one-way ANOVA: Pg/S81D-ClyARPP19  
5 Pvalue=0.0040. Each dot represents an independent experiment.

6 **(F)** % of GVBD 9 hours after Pg addition for the 3 conditions of panel (D). Ordinary one-way  
7 ANOVA: Pg/S109D-XeARPP19 Pvalue<0.0001, Pg/S81D-ClyARPP19 Pvalue=0.0988. Each dot  
8 represents an independent experiment.

9 **(G)** Oocytes from experiments represented in (A) and (D) were collected at GVBD and lysates  
10 were immunoblotted for karyopherin as a loading control, GST (tag of ARPP19 proteins),  
11 phosphorylated MAPK (pMAPK) and Y15-phosphorylated Cdk1 (pY15-Cdk1). The experiment  
12 was repeated 4 times with similar results.

13 **(H)** ARPP19 proteins, either wild-type or mutated (S81D-ClyARPP19 or S109D-XeARPP19) were  
14 injected in *Clytia* prophase-arrested oocytes. MIH was then added or not and GVBD was  
15 monitored. The number of oocytes having undergone GVBD is indicated.

16

17 **Figure 6. S81 phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of ClyARPP19 in *Xenopus* oocyte**  
18 **extracts.**

19 **(A)** After 30 minutes preincubation with or without PKI, *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts  
20 were supplemented with XeARPP19 (left panel) or ClyARPP19 (right panel). At indicated times,  
21 samples were collected and phosphorylation was analyzed by western blot with antibodies  
22 raised against phosphoS109-XeARPP19 or phosphoS81-ClyARPP19. The total ARPP19 amount  
23 was detected by an anti-GST antibody. Karyopherin was used as a loading control. A control  
24 (CTL) is represented by recombinant XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 *in vitro* phosphorylated by PKA  
25 for 2 hours. One representative experiment from 3 independent experiments is shown.

26 **(B)** *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts were incubated with hexokinase/glucose and PKI. They  
27 were supplemented with S109-phosphorylated XeARPP19 (left panel) or S81-phosphorylated  
28 ClyARPP19 (right panel). At indicated times, samples were collected and the phosphorylation  
29 level was followed by western blot using antibodies directed against phosphoS109-XeARPP19  
30 or phosphoS81-ClyARPP19. The total ARPP19 amount was detected by an anti-GST antibody.  
31 One representative experiment from 3 independent experiments is shown.

32 **(C)** Quantification of the phosphorylation level of 3 independent experiments performed as in  
33 (B). The dashed lines correspond to the mean of the 3 experiments.

34 **(D)** Comparison of the half-time dephosphorylation of phosphoS81-ClyARPP19 and  
35 phosphoS109-XeARPP19 calculated from 3 independent experiments performed as in (B),  
36 each represented by a dot. Unpaired T-test XeARPP19/ClyARPP19 half-time Pvalue = 0.0026.

37

38 **Figure 7. ClyARPP19 is dephosphorylated by PP2A-B55 $\delta$  on S81**

39 **(A)** *Xenopus* prophase oocyte extracts were incubated with hexokinase/glucose and PKI. They  
40 were depleted or not in B55 $\delta$  by beads coated with S67thio-S109A-XeARPP19 and B55 $\delta$   
41 antibody. They were then supplemented with S109-phosphorylated XeARPP19 or S81-

1 phosphorylated ClyARPP19 for 45 min. The phosphorylation level was estimated by western  
2 blot using antibodies directed against phosphoS109-XeARPP19 or phosphoS81-ClyARPP19.  
3 The total Arpp19 amount was detected by an anti-GST antibody and B55 $\delta$  by a specific  
4 antibody. Karyopherin was used as a loading control. One representative experiment from 3  
5 independent experiments is shown.

6 **(B)** Quantification of the phosphorylation level at 45 min of 3 independent experiments  
7 performed as in (A), each of them represented by a dot. Data are shown as mean +/- SD.  
8 Ordinary one-way ANOVA has been applied. S109XeARPP19 dephosphorylation: no treatment  
9 0'/no treatment 45' Pvalue=0.0471, no treatment 0'/B55 depletion Pvalue=0.3873.  
10 S81ClyARPP19 dephosphorylation: no treatment 0'/no treatment 45' Pvalue=0.0021, no  
11 treatment 0'/B55 depletion Pvalue=0.0537.

12

13 **Figure 8. ClyARPP19 is phosphorylated *in vitro* by PKA at low rate compared to XeARPP19.**

14 **(A)** Purified bovine PKA was incubated with XeARPP19 or ClyARPP19 in the presence of  $\gamma$ S-  
15 ATP. Samples were collected at various times as indicated. The phosphorylation of ARPP19  
16 proteins was assessed by western blot with an anti-thiophosphate ester antibody. The total  
17 ARPP19 amount was detected by an anti-GST antibody.

18 **(B)** Quantification of the phosphorylation level of 3 independent experiments performed as in  
19 (A). The dashed lines correspond to the mean of the 3 experiments.

20 **(C)** The half-time of XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 phosphorylation by PKA was determined from  
21 the regression curve of the phosphorylation level obtained for the 3 independent  
22 experiments, each represented by a dot. Unpaired T-test XeARPP19/ClyARPP19 half-time  
23 Pvalue=0.0361.

24

25 **Figure 9. Phosphorylation of XeARPP19 and ClyARPP19 by PKA in *Xenopus* oocytes.**

26 **(A)** XeARPP19 or ClyARPP19 were injected into *Xenopus* oocytes previously injected or not  
27 with PKI. 30 min after ARPP19 injection, injected ARPP19 proteins were recovered by GST pull-  
28 down and their phosphorylation was monitored by western blot using antibodies against  
29 phosphoS109-XeARPP19 or phosphoS81-ClyARPP19. The total ARPP19 amount was detected  
30 with an anti-GST antibody. Three groups of 5 oocytes (A, B and C) were analyzed in both  
31 conditions. An *in vitro* phosphorylated form of ARPP19 was used as a positive control of  
32 phosphorylation (CTL). One representative experiment from 3 independent experiments is  
33 shown.

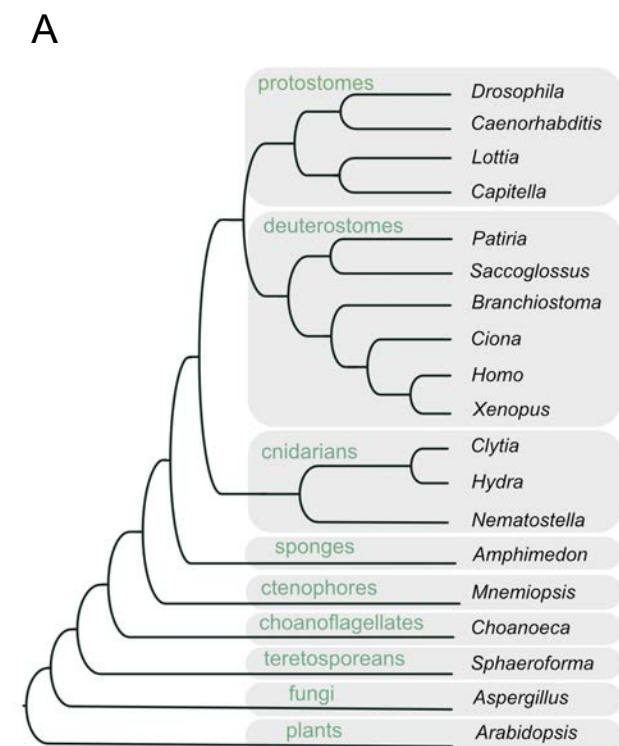
34 **(B)** Quantification of the phosphorylation level of S109-XeARPP19 or S81-ClyARPP19  
35 expressed as the % of the phosphorylation of the positive control. The quantifications were  
36 made from 3 independent experiments performed as in (A). Data are shown as mean +/- SD.  
37 Each dot represents one experiment. Ordinary one-way ANOVA: +PKI/-PKI Pvalue<0.0001.

38

39 **Figure 10. Complexification of ARPP19 phosphorylation sites and functions in oocyte**  
40 **maturation during animal evolution.**

1 **(A)** Evolutionary history of the PKA and Gwl sites of ARPP19 among Opisthokonts. **1.** A widely  
2 conserved Gwl phosphorylation site among eukaryotes, hence present in the opisthokont  
3 ancestor. **2.** Arising of a consensus PKA phosphorylation site early in the clade Metazoa. It  
4 could play a biological role common to these animals, but not related to oocyte meiotic  
5 maturation. **3.** Loss of the PKA site in *Porifera*. **4.** Species specific changes in the  
6 phosphorability of the PKA site: strong in *Xenopus*, weak in *Clytia*.  
7 **(B)** Functions of ARPP19 in oocyte meiotic maturation. **1. Prophase arrest.** In *Xenopus*, PKA is  
8 active and phosphorylates ARPP19 that indirectly inhibits MPF activation by unknown  
9 mechanisms. In *Clytia*, PKA is inactive and ARPP19, even if its phosphorylation by PKA is  
10 artificially mimicked, is unable to inhibit MPF. **2. MIH stimulation and meiotic maturation**  
11 *initiation.* In *Xenopus*, progesterone causes a drop of PKA activity, ARPP19 is  
12 dephosphorylated, releasing the activatory pathway of MPF. In *Clytia*, MIH activates PKA  
13 whose hypothetical substrate X activates MPF. **3. Entry into M-phase.** In both species, Gwl  
14 phosphorylates ARPP19 that plays its highly conserved action as a PP2A-B55 inhibitor,  
15 essential for MPF activity.  
16  
17





Multiple sequence alignment of protein sequences across various species. The alignment shows conserved regions, with some residues highlighted in green and yellow. The species names are listed on the left side of the alignment.

Species included in the alignment:

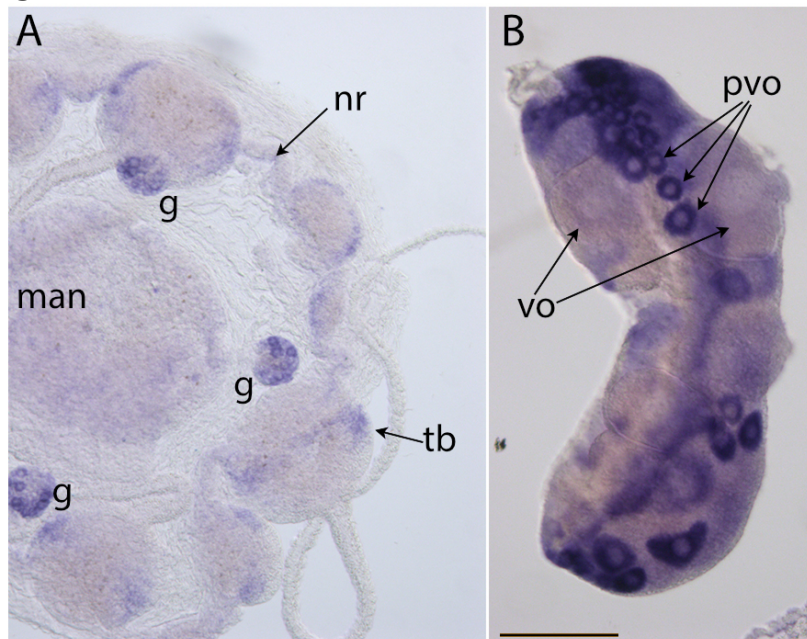
- Drosophila*, *Caenorhabditis*, *Lottia*, *Capitella*, *Patiria*, *Saccoglossus*, *Branchiostoma*, *Ciona*, *Homo*, *Xenopus*, *Clytia*, *Hydra*, *Nematostella*, *Amphimedon*, *Mnemiopsis*, *Choanoeca*, *Sphaeroforma*, *Aspergillus*, *Arabidopsis*

**B**

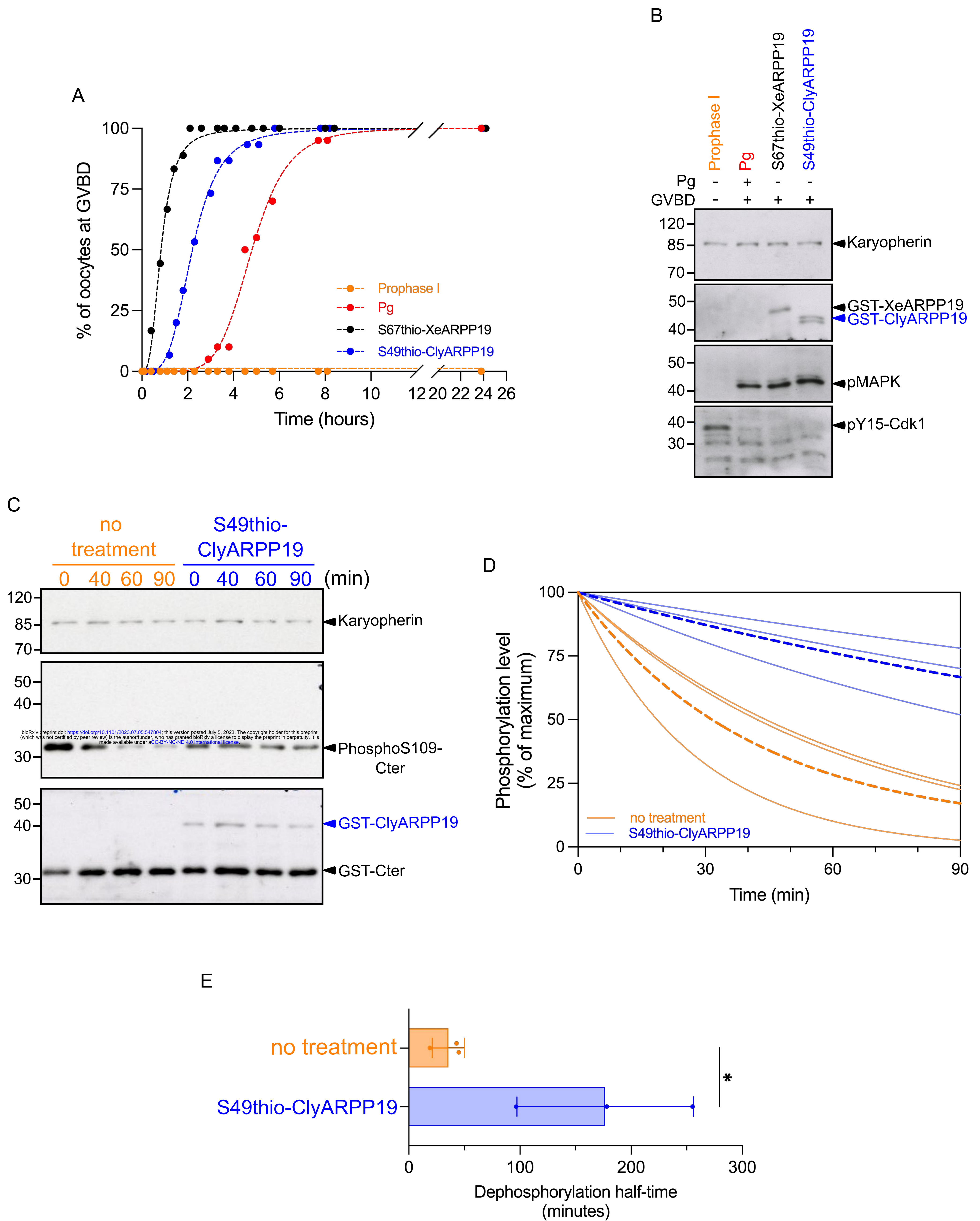
Sequence alignment focusing on the Gwl site and PKA site. The Gwl site is highlighted in green and the PKA site is highlighted in yellow. Arrows indicate the specific residues at these sites.

Species: *Clytia*, *Xenopus*

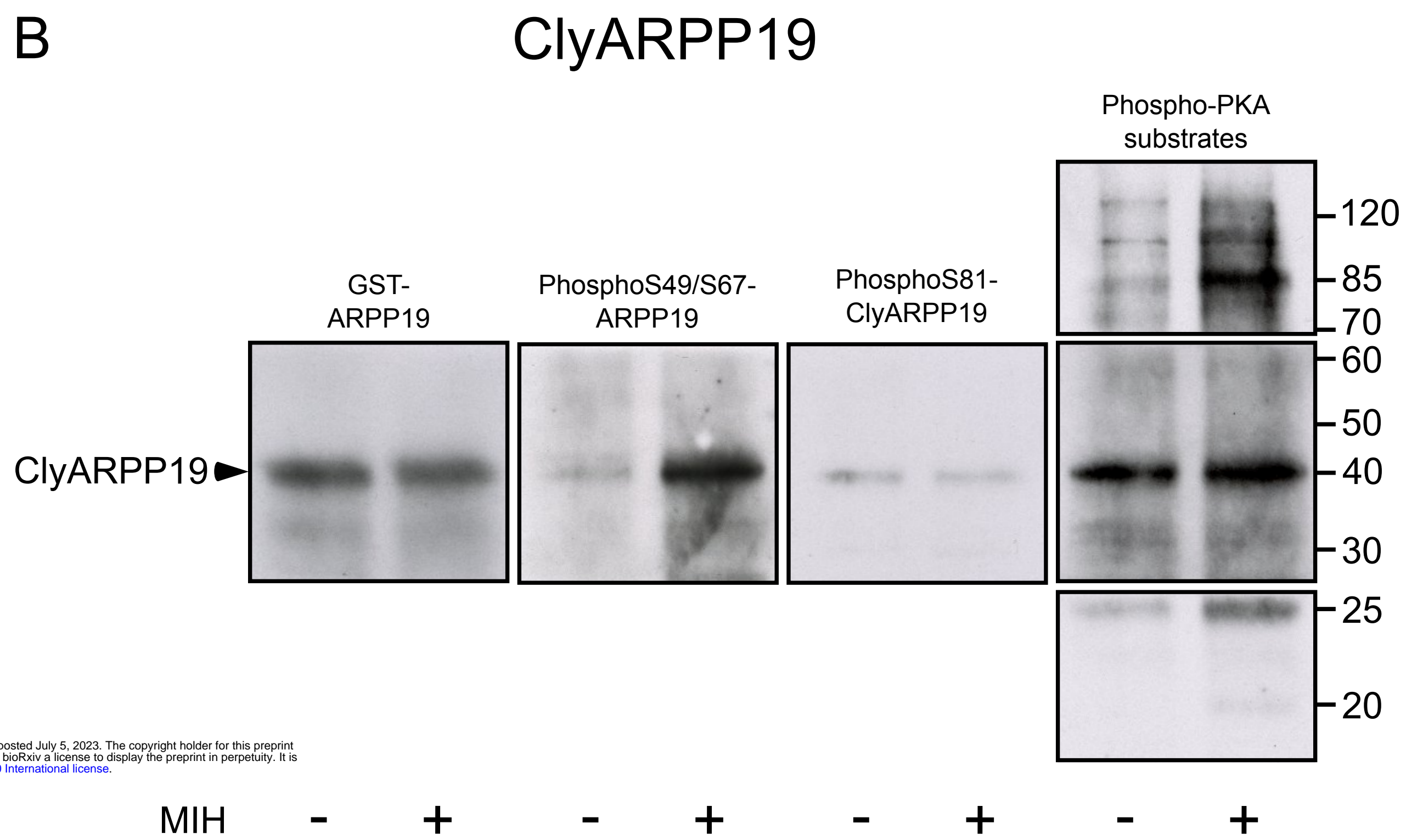
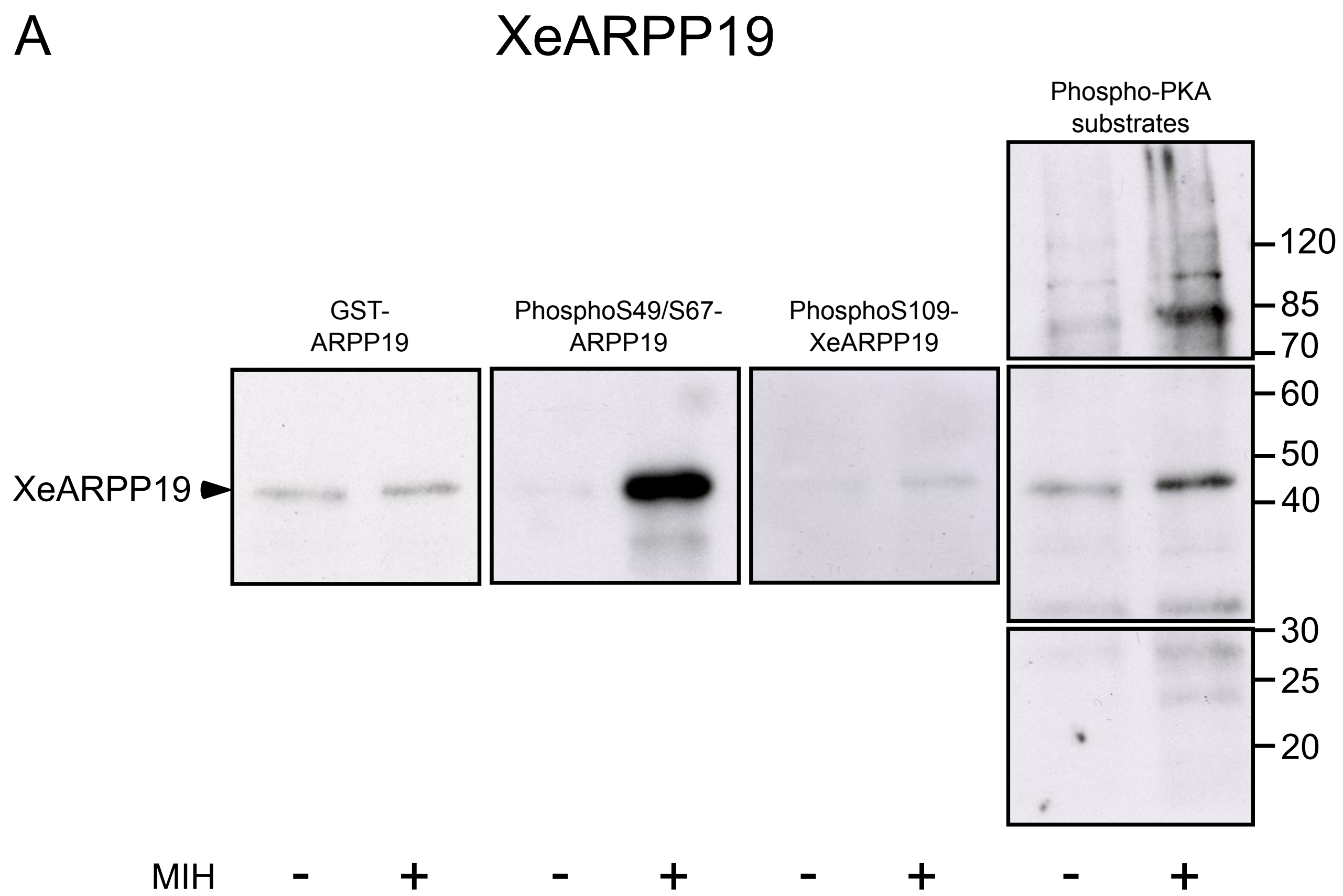
**C**



# Figure 2

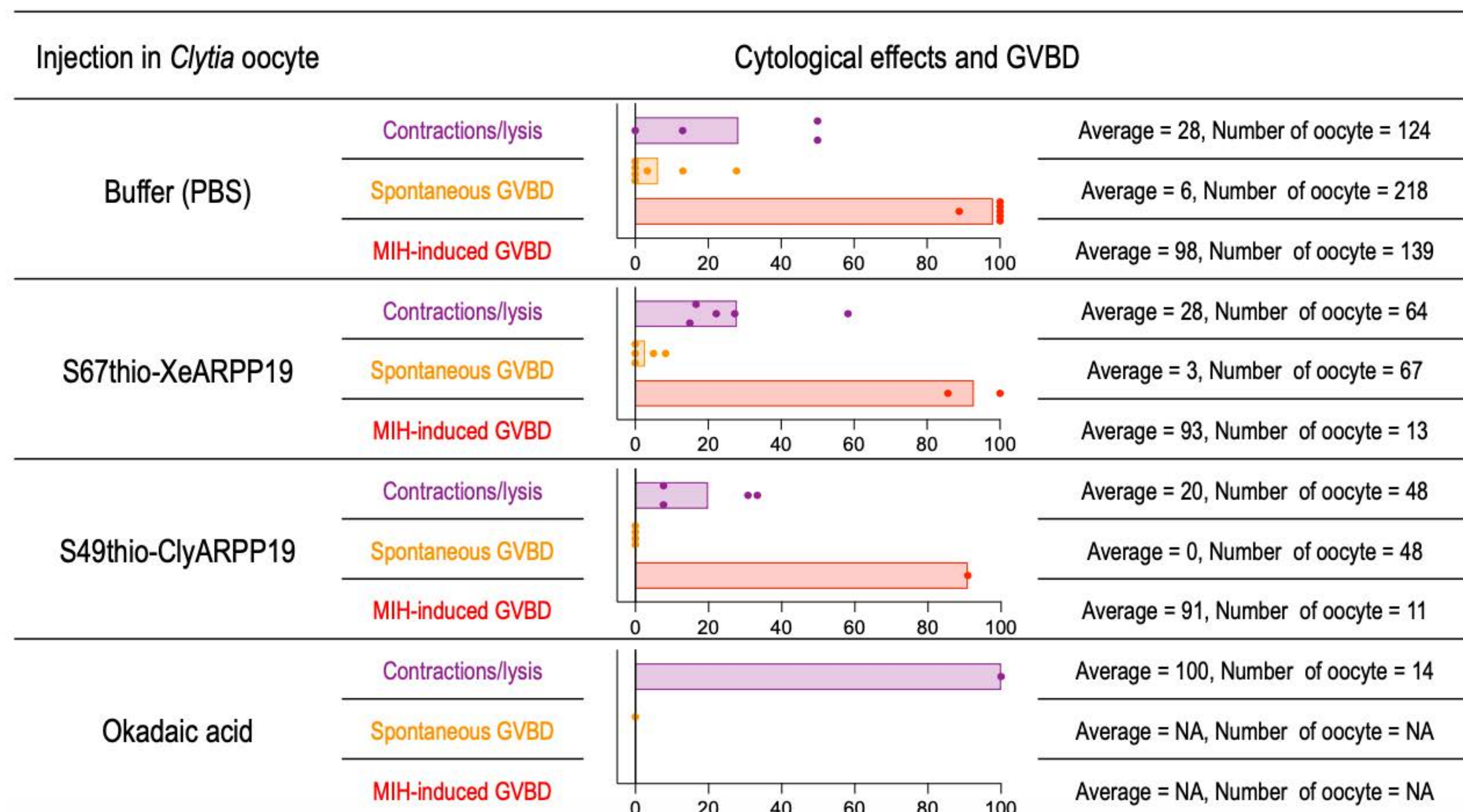


# Figure 3



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## C

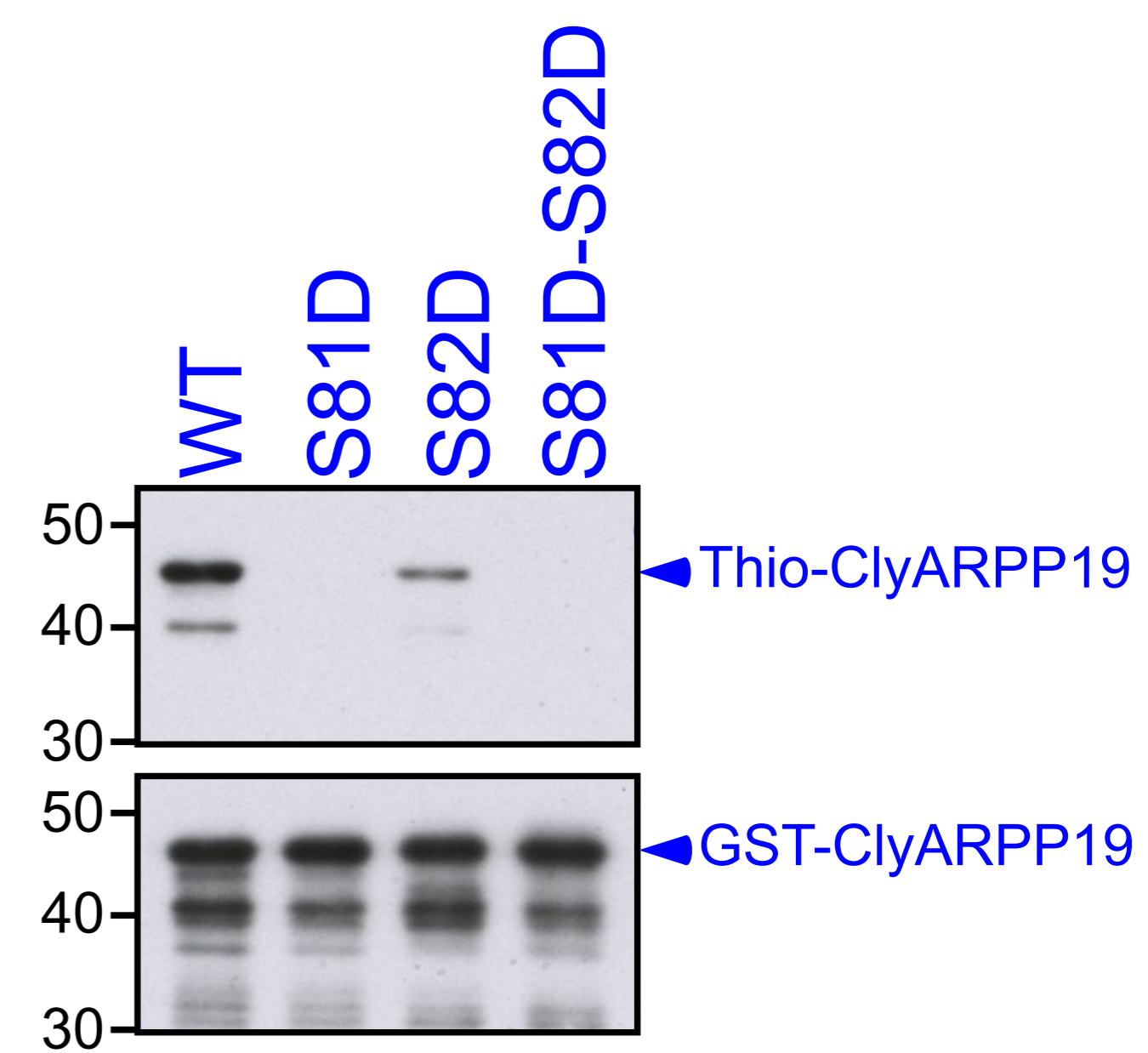


# Figure 4

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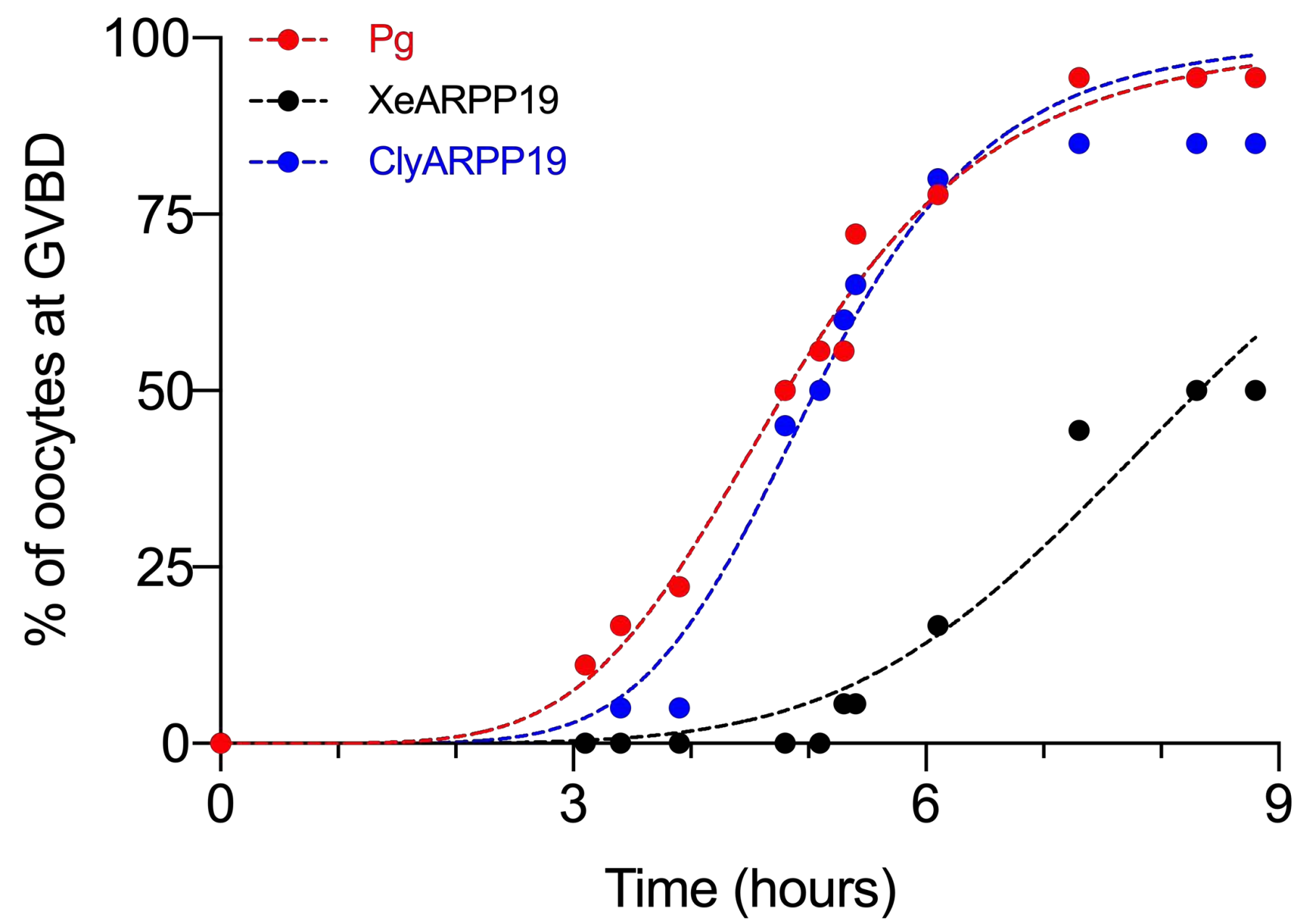
	Proteins	PKA sites
Wild-type	ClyARPP19	_RKISS_
PKA site mutants	S81D-ClyARPP19	_RKIDS_
	S82D-ClyARPP19	_RKISD_
	S81D-S82D-ClyARPP19	_RKIDD_

B

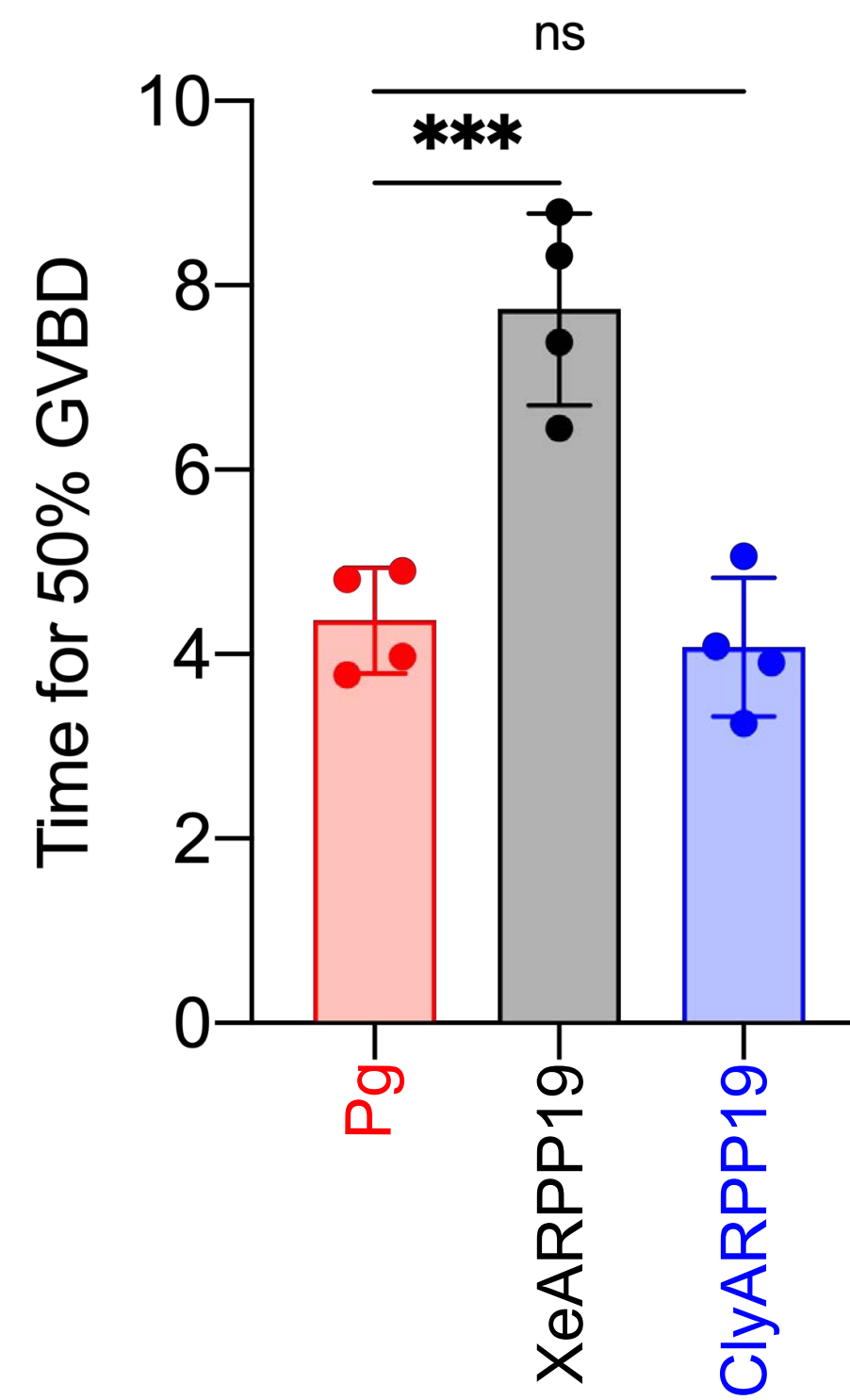


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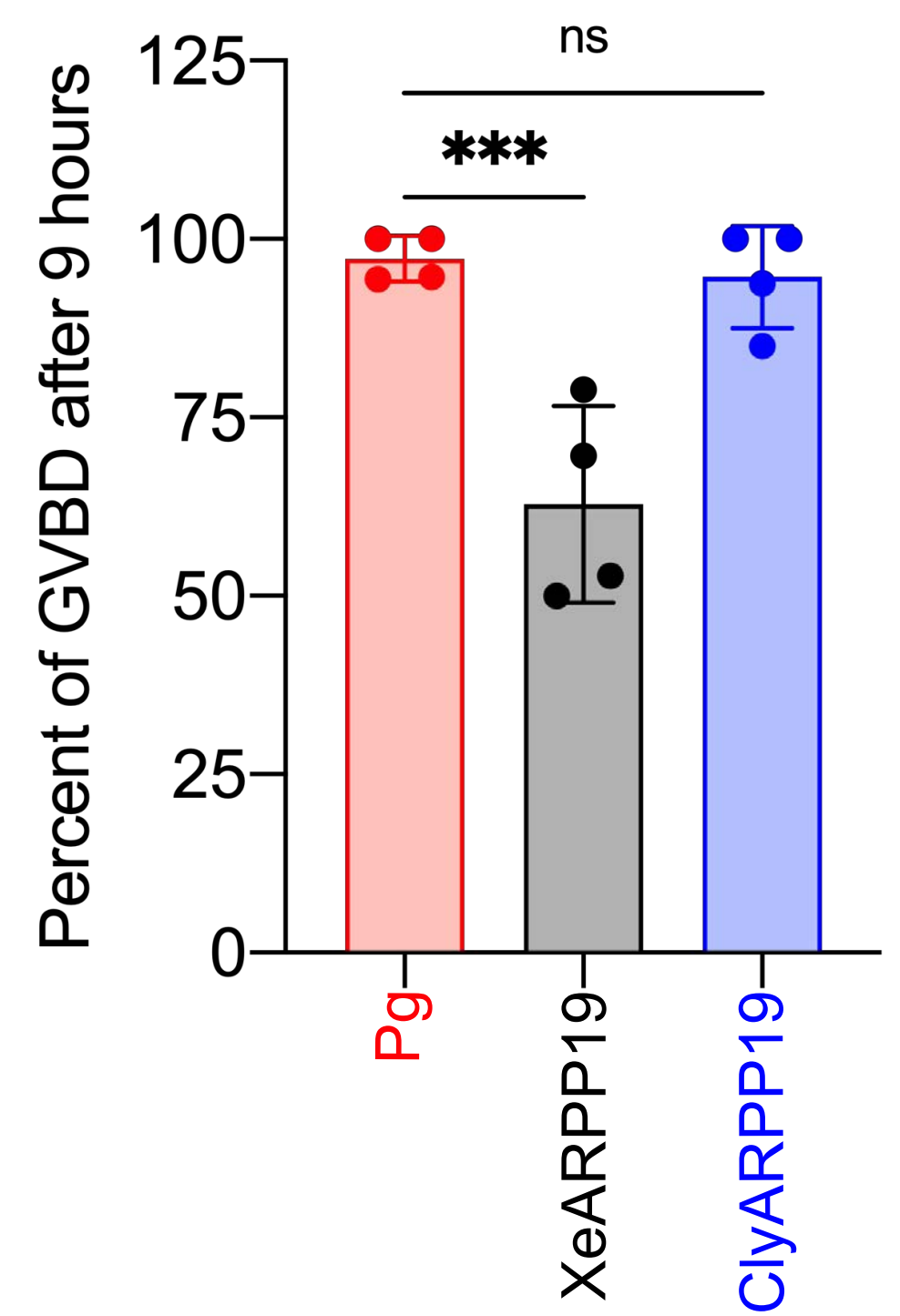
A



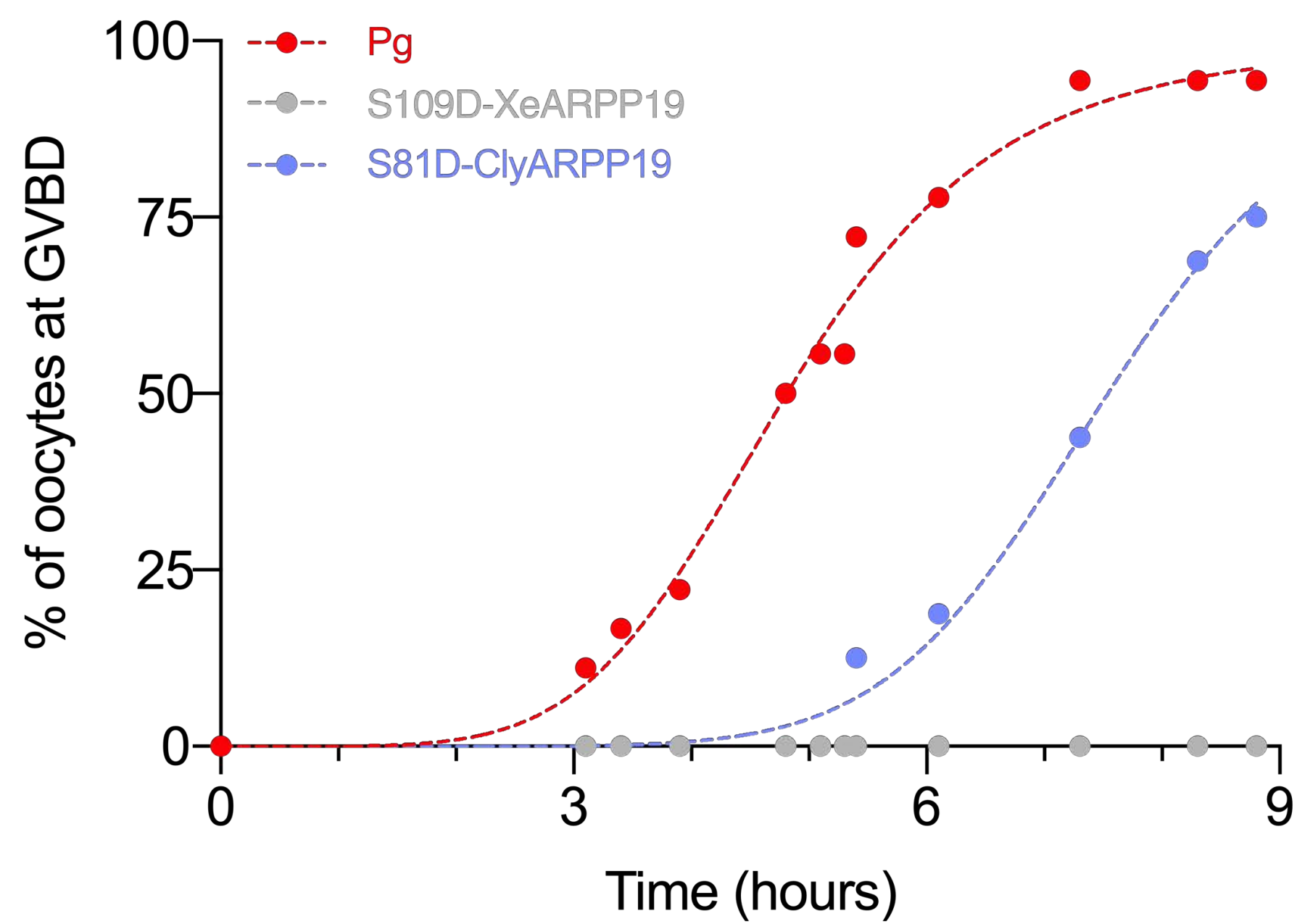
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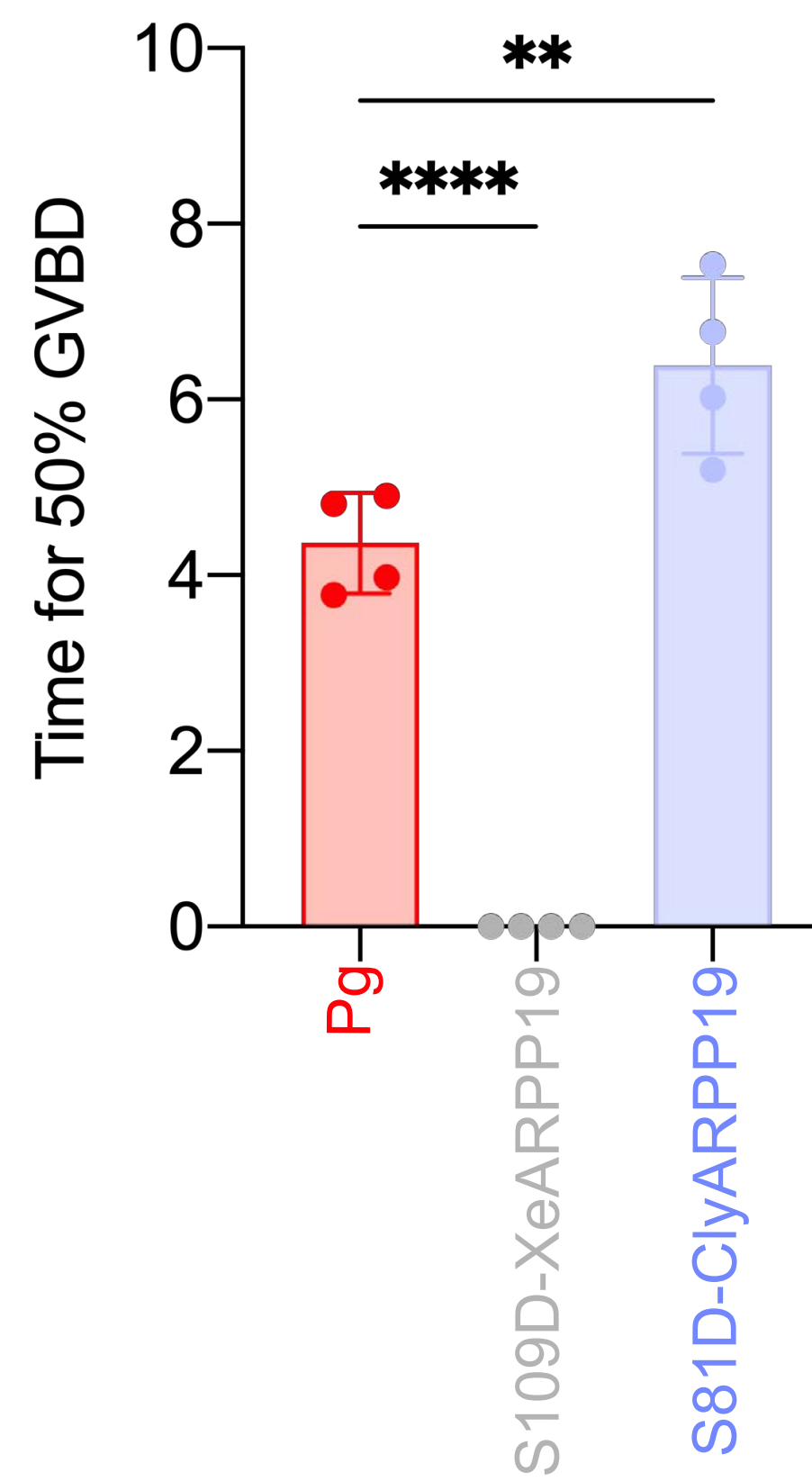
C



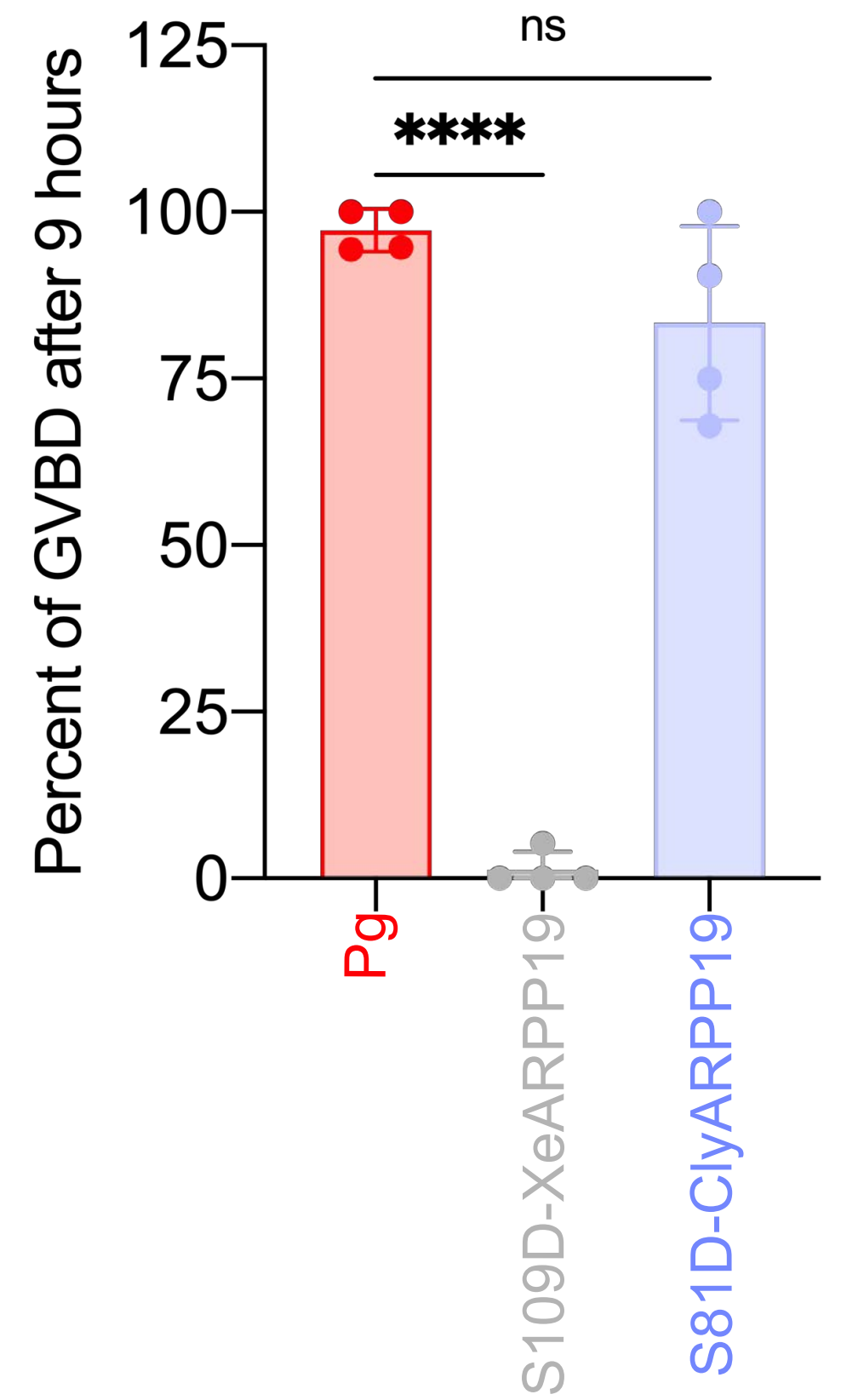
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E

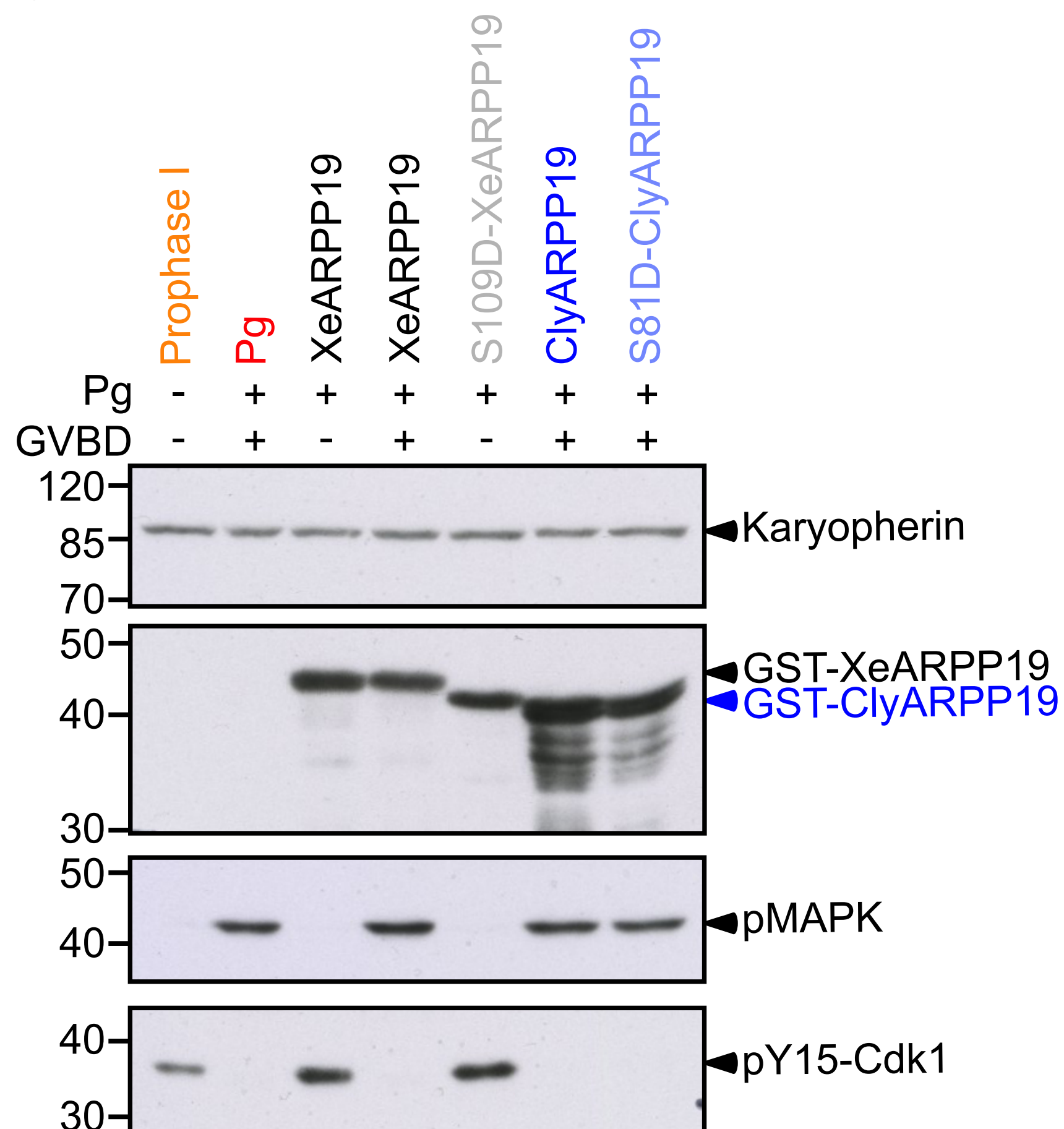


F



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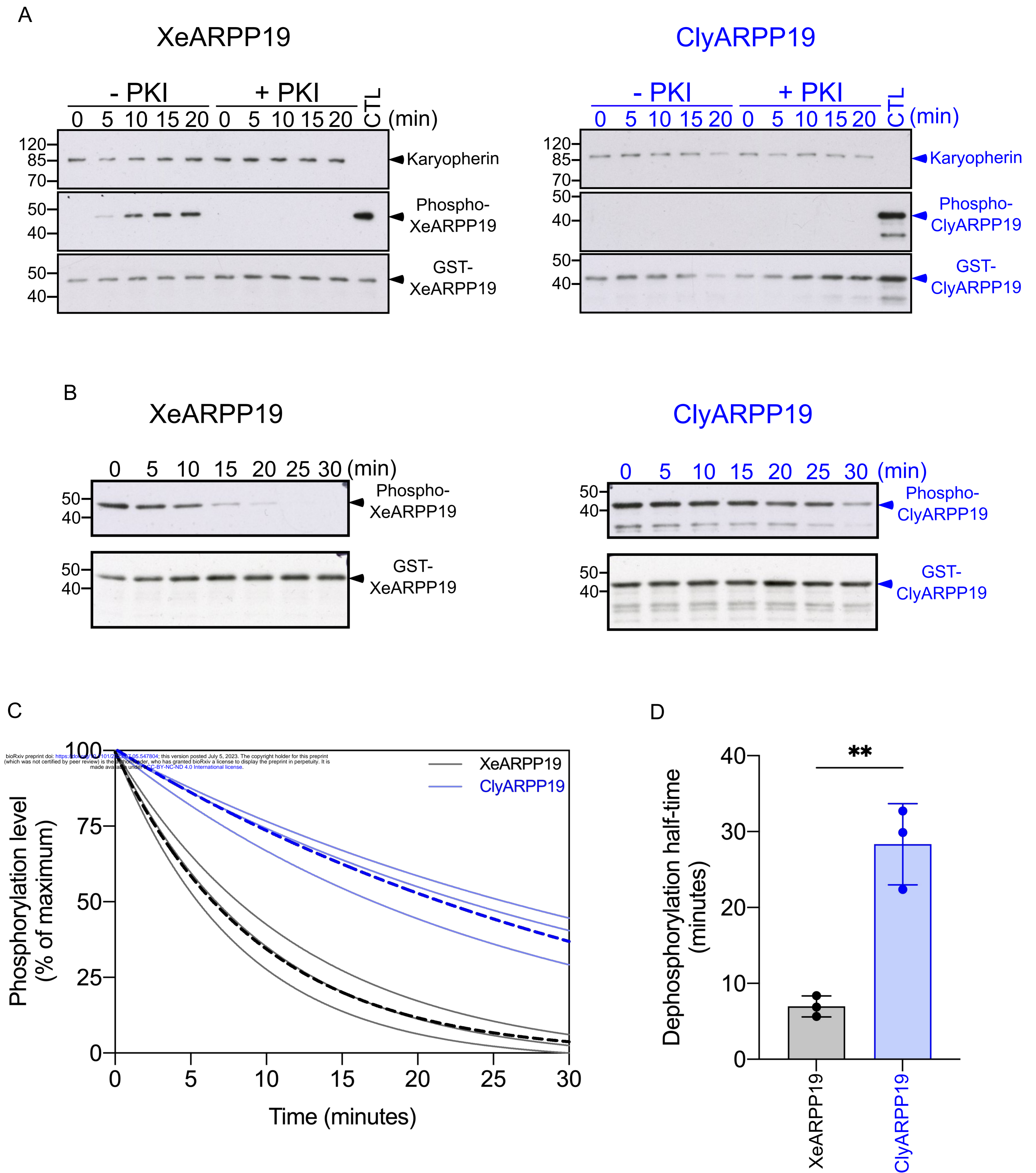
G



H

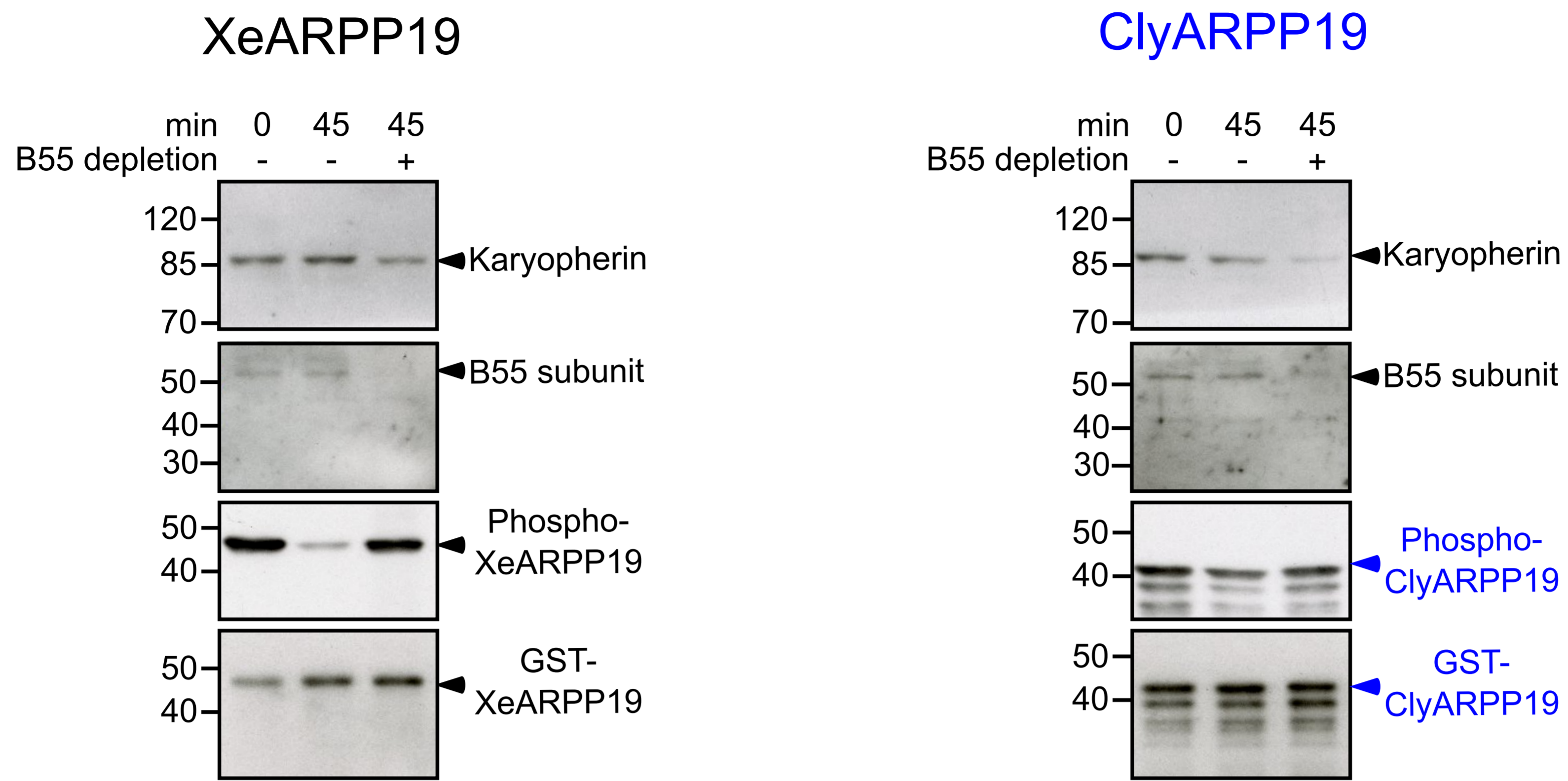
Injection in <i>Clytia</i> oocytes		GVBD
XeARPP19	- MIH	0/27
	+ MIH	27/27
CiyARPP19	- MIH	0/19
	+ MIH	19/19
S109D-XeARPP19	- MIH	0/25
	+ MIH	25/25
S81D-CiyARPP19	- MIH	0/42
	+ MIH	42/42

# Figure 6

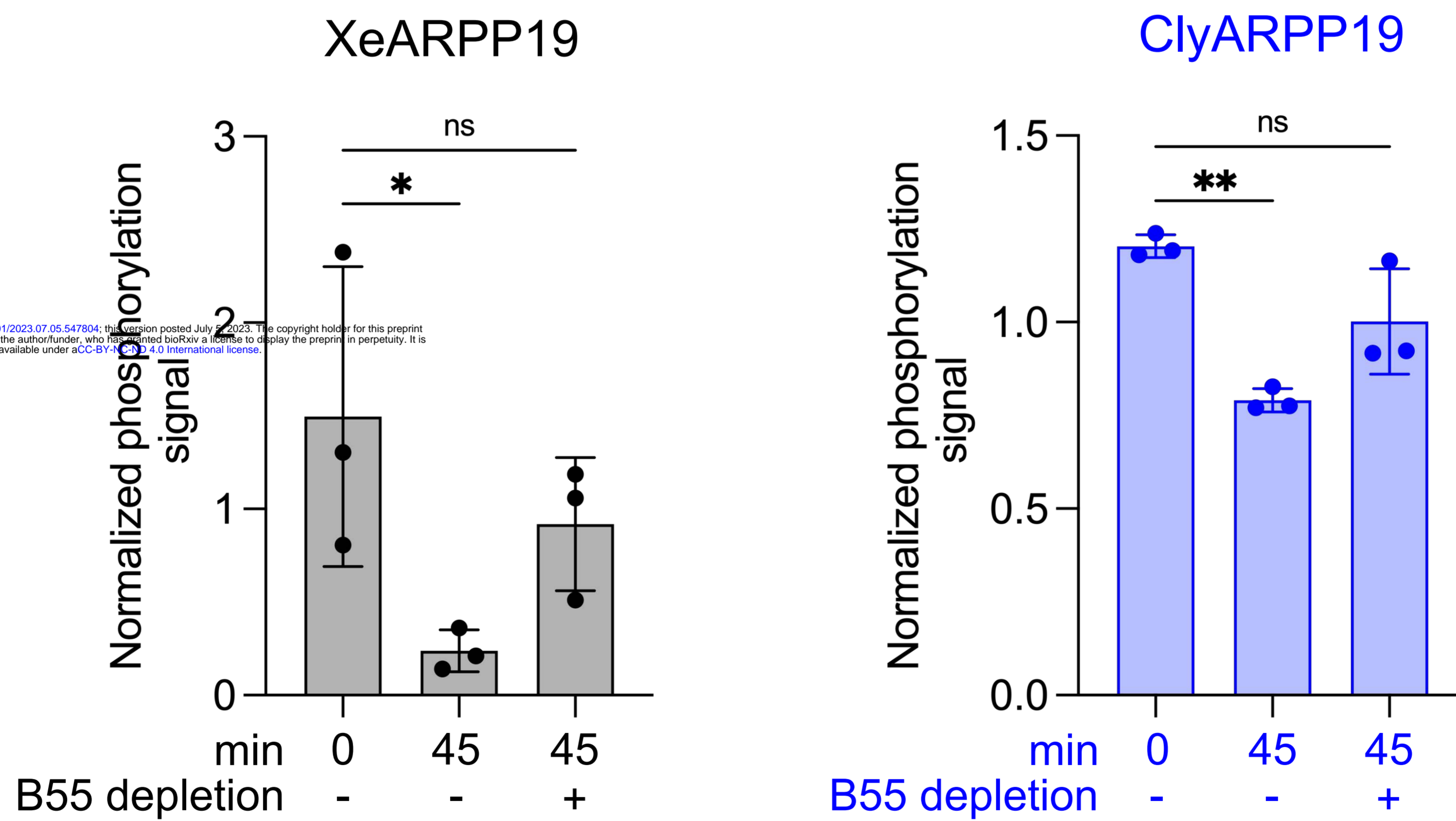


# Figure 7

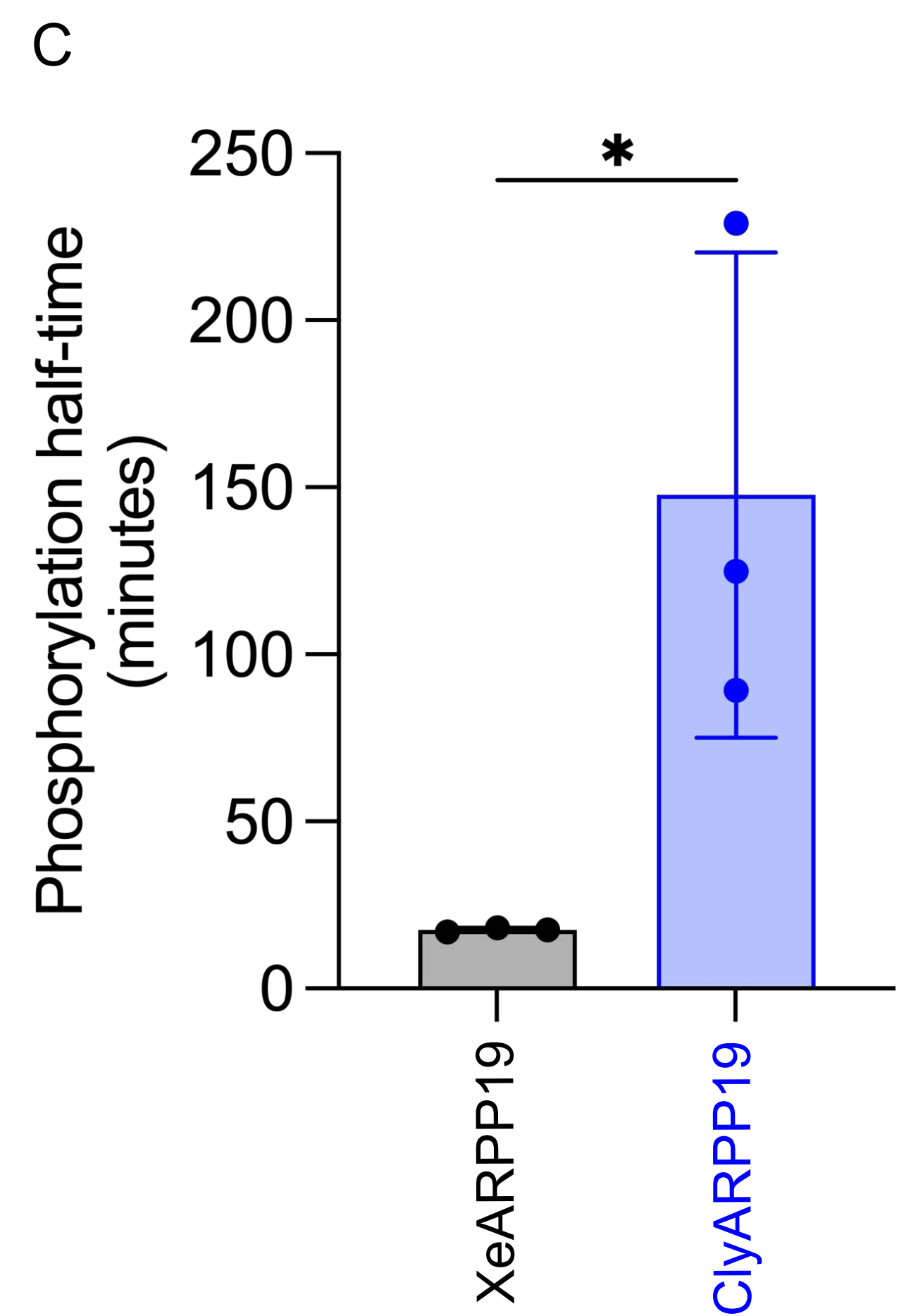
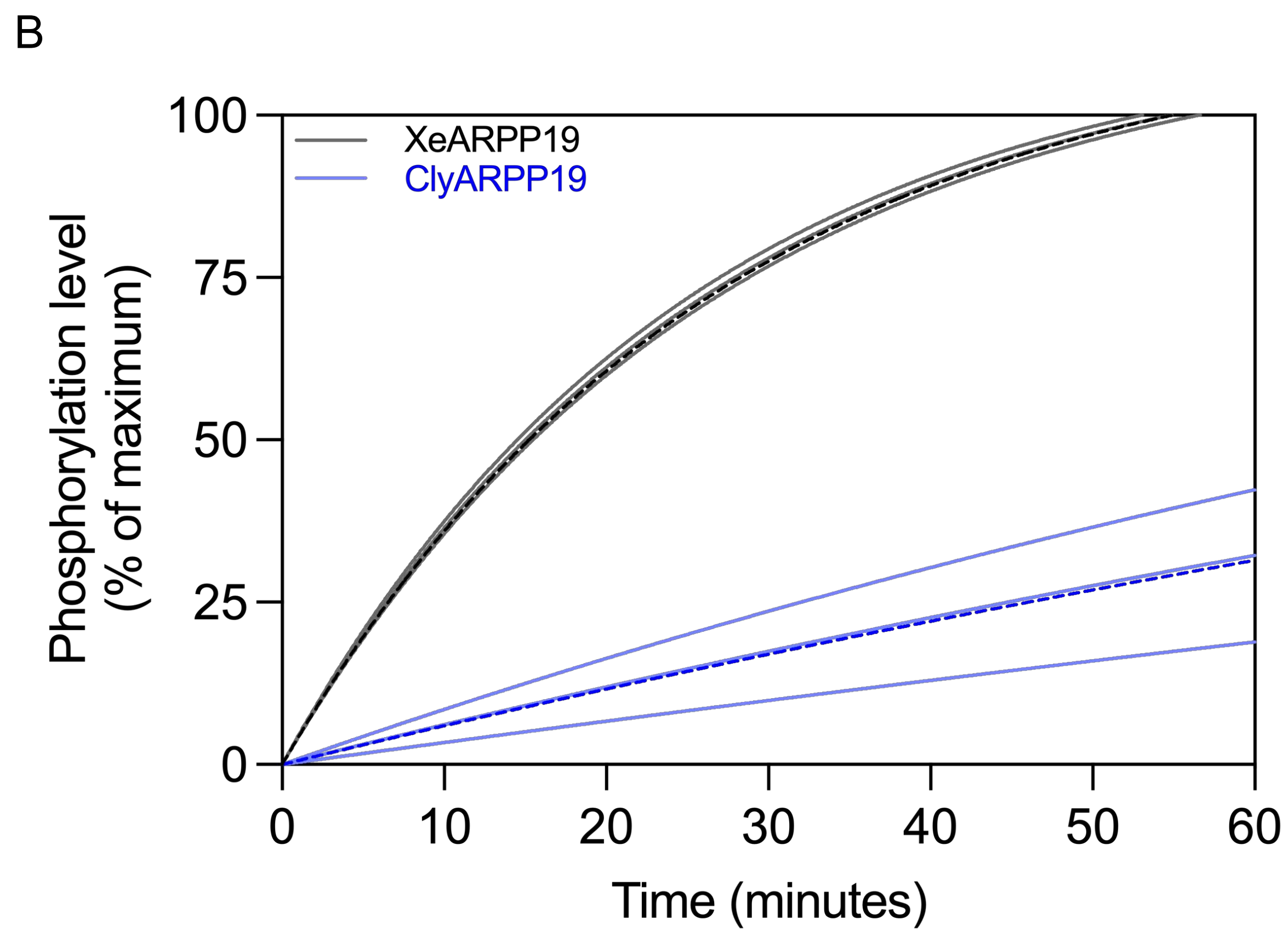
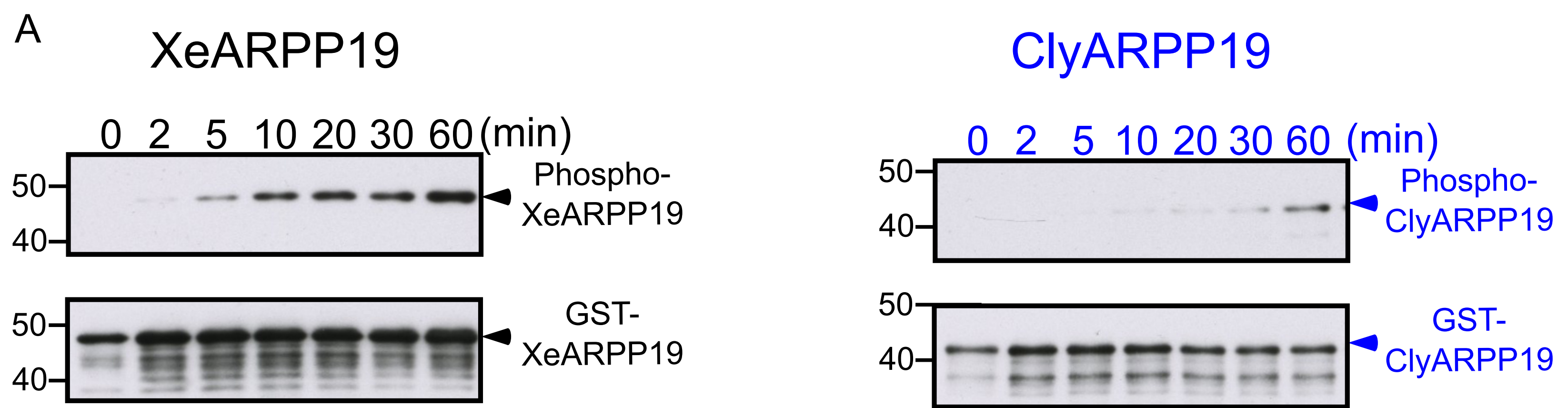
A



B



# Figure 8





# Figure 9

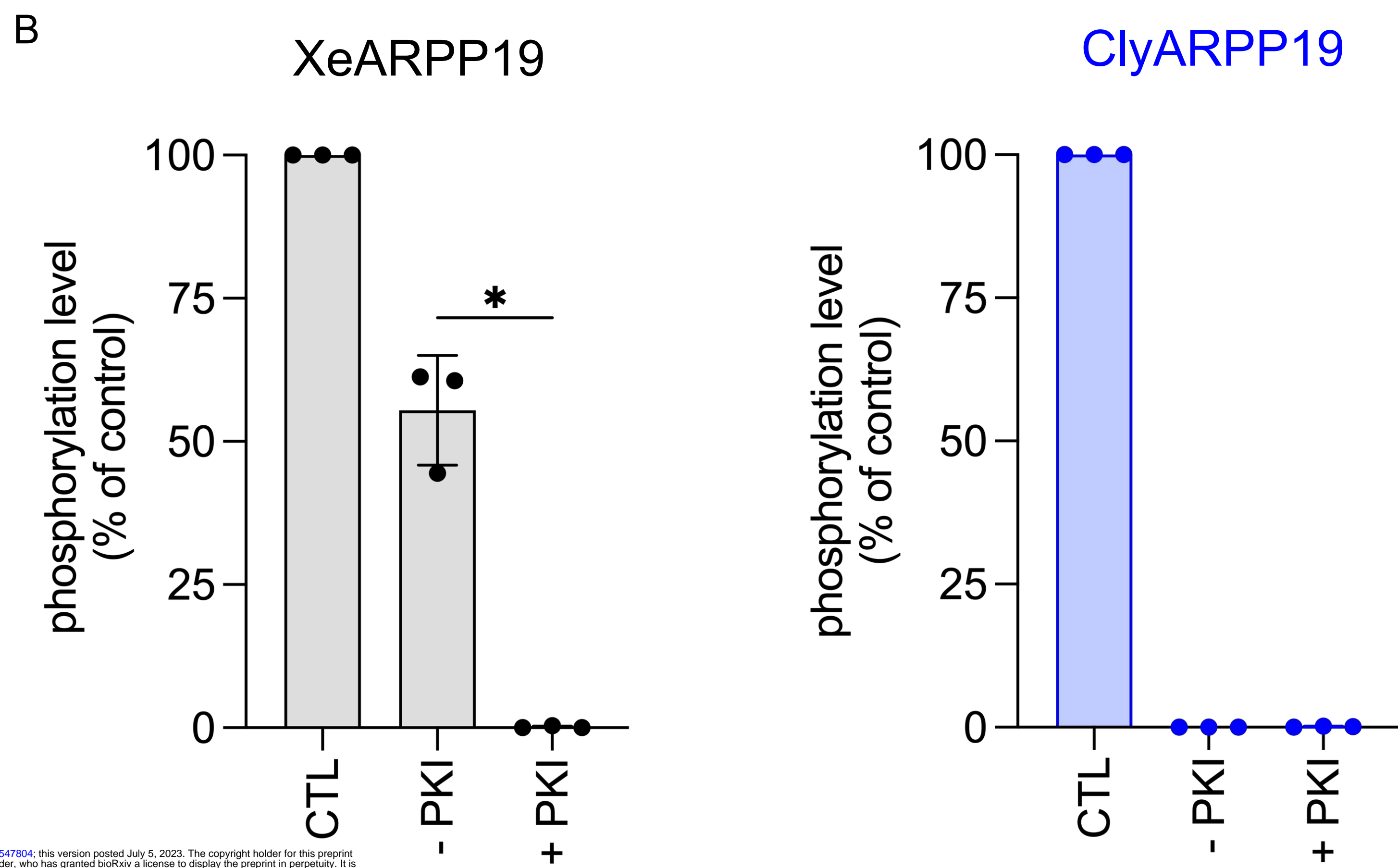
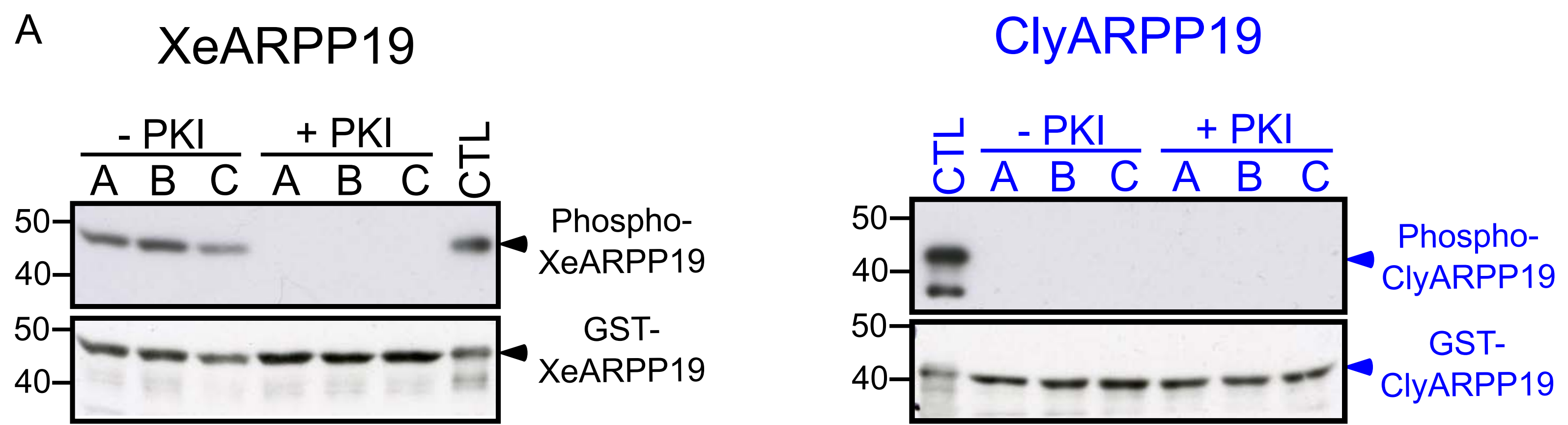


Figure 10

