



gure 13.34 Taste-transduction mechanisms differ for different ste qualities All transduction mechanisms except the IP<sub>3</sub> action in lead to depolarization, which spreads to the basal end of the cell adopens voltage-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels to allow Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry and transitter release. (a) For salt taste, sodium ions enter a taste bud cell rough amiloride-sensitive cation channels, directly depolarizing the ell. (b) In sour taste, either H<sup>+</sup> ions enter the cell through amiloride-ensitive cation channels, or they close K<sup>+</sup> channels to produce deporization. (c) Sweet taste is most commonly mediated by the binding f sugars to a G protein-coupled receptor, which acts via a G protein to clivate adenylyl cyclase and produce cyclic AMP. Cyclic AMP then actives protein kinase A. (PKA) to close a K<sup>+</sup> channel (by phosphorylation).

it), producing depolarization. (d) The amino acid glutamate (monosodium glutamate, MSG) stimulates the taste quality umami (a savory or meaty quality). Glutamate binds to a G protein—coupled receptor (related to synaptic metabotropic glutamate receptors) to activate a phosphodiesterase (PDE) and decrease the concentration of cAMP. The decrease in cAMP leads to an increase in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration. (e) Bitter taste mechanisms can involve a G protein—coupled receptor for bitter substances that acts via a G protein and phospholipase C to produce IP<sub>3</sub>. IP<sub>3</sub> liberates Ca<sup>2+</sup> ions from intracellular stores, eliciting transmitter release without requiring depolarization. Other bitter substances bind to K+ channels and close them to depolarize

