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Rewarding Properties of Social Defeat

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Our hypothesis that group housed, male Syrian hamsters develop a preference for social defeat despite being paired with an aggressive and/or dominant social partner was rejected by our results.

Our previous and current research indicates that Syrian hamsters, despite being solitary animals, formed a CPP for social defeat regardless of social/aggressive/submissive) and housing/group/individual) status.

Our data suggest that the experiment conducted produced a combination of mild social defeat with novel interactions that produced less aversion and perhaps lower generalized anxiety which was sufficient to produce a CPP for social defeat in male Syrian Hamsters.

Conduct a variety of social defeat experiments and aggressor pairings that is rational and realistic representation of biological and sociological stress on social behavior.

Understanding the neurobiology of social stress and how anxiety & stress influences future behaviors and sociality.

Identifying the neural substrates of social reward:

- Mesolimbic dopamine system
- Vasopressin system (limbic areas)
- Oxytocin system (limbic areas)

References


