



POSTER ABSTRACT

Can Mice Learn a Win-Stay Contingency Under Aversive Motivation?

Kristina M. DePaula & Charles Locurto, Ph.D. (Faculty Sponsor)
College of the Holy Cross, Department of Psychology

The purpose of this experiment was to find whether mice could learn a win-stay contingency under the aversive motivation of water escape. After being habituated to find a platform in a round pool, mice received spatial win-shift and win-stay training for 10 days, consisting of 10 trials per mouse per day. Latencies and amount of errorless trials were recorded and acquisition under win-shift was found to be superior for all subjects. This data has great implications in learning mechanisms in mice and contradict the current findings that win-stay training is more easily acquired under aversive motivation. This work was supported by grant 1 R15 MH5997-1A1 from the National Institutes of Health and grant BCS-0116089 from the National Science Foundation.