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Evolution and ontogeny of neural circuits

Sven O. E. Ebbesson, Louisiana State University School of Medicine

Recent studies on neural pathways in a broad spectrum of vertebrates suggest that, in addition to migration and an increase in the number of certain select neurons, a significant aspect of neural evolution is a "parcellation" (segregation-isolation) process that involves the loss of selected connections by the new aggregates. Because the process is repeated, at least partially, during ontogenetic development, it is suggested that in many neuronal systems axons do not invade unknown territories during evolutionary or ontogenetic development but follow in their ancestors' paths to their ancestral targets; if the connection is later lost, it reflects the specialization of the circuitry.

With Commentary from P Alberch, WH Calvin, CBG Campbell; J-P Ewert; TE Finger, BE Fritzsch, H Ito, JH Kaas; JJ Koenderink; PD MacLean; RG Northcutt; E Ramon-Moliner; J Szentágothai; W Wilczynski, JZ Young, and others

The scope of neuroethology Graham Hoyle, University of Oregon

Neuroethology is now a formal subdivision of neuroscience, boasting two recent introductory texts, but there is as yet no common focus for research interests. This article examines the history of ethology and shows that its profound success was due to the confinement of research to the study of stereotyped, complex, nonlearned, innate behaviors. A useful model propounded by Lorenz in 1949 summarized the principles. This model and its updated derivatives imply common neurophysiological mechanisms that are as yet unknown. It is argued that neuroethologists should restrict their attention to working out the underpinnings of these principles for a variety of instinctive behaviors of animals from diverse phyla.

With Commentary from U Bässler; P Bateson; TH Bullock, F Clarac; F Delcomyn; J Erber, J-P Ewert; DM Guthrie; RA Hinde; I Kupfermann; A Manning; H Markl; CHF Rowell; Al Selverston; JZ Young; and others.

Sensation seeking: A comparative approach to a human trait Marvin Zuckerman, *University of Delaware*

Sensation seeking in humans is compared with potential models in animal behavior in terms of genetic determination and common biological correlates. The augmenting-reducing of cortical evoked potentials and levels of platelet monoamine oxidase (MAO) provide two biological markers with common correlates in animal and human behavior. The monoamine systems regulated by MAO have been implicated in general behavioral activity, behavior in novel situations, socialization, sexual and consummatory behaviors, and intracranial self-stimulation in animals. Indicators of activity in the noradrenergic system have been correlated with sensation seeking in humans. An optimal-level theory of behavior in relation to the activity of catecholamine systems is suggested.

With Commentary from E Callaway; G Claridge; VA Eterović & PA Ferchmin; HJ Eysenck; JA Gray; CE Izard; L von Knorring; ST Mason; RWJ Neufeld; DE Redmond, Jr.; EN Sokolov; J Strelau; P Suedfeld; JF Wohlwill, and others.

Among the articles to appear in forthcoming issues of BBS:

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