

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Where in the serotonergic system does it go wrong?  
Unravelling the route by which the serotonergic system affects  
feather pecking in chickens

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**Title**

Where in the serotonergic system does it go wrong? Unravelling the route by which the serotonergic system affects feather pecking in chickens

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**Highlights**

- Feather pecking (FP) in chickens can be malfunctioning and maladaptive.
- Deficient 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> autoreceptor and MAO-A activity appear predisposing for FP.
- Young chicks with high FP tendency have low central 5-HT and DA activity.
- Central 5-HT and DA activity is affected in adult FP birds in specific brain regions
- Peripheral 5-HT, gut microbiota, immune functioning, are related to FP.

**Abstract**

A deficient serotonergic system is associated with psychopathological behaviors in various species, among which, feather pecking (FP) in chickens. Deficiency in the serotonergic system

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