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Authors: Paul Ruiz, Aldo Calliari, Ricardo Marcos Pautassi

PII: S0166-4328(18)30282-1
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2018.04.011
Reference: BBR 11377

To appear in: *Behavioural Brain Research*

Received date: 23-2-2018
Revised date: 16-3-2018
Accepted date: 10-4-2018

Please cite this article as: Ruiz P, Calliari A, Pautassi RM, Reserpine-induced depression is associated in female, but not in male, adolescent rats with heightened, fluoxetine-sensitive, ethanol consumption, *Behavioural Brain Research* (2010), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2018.04.011

Reserpine-induced depression is associated in female, but not in male, adolescent rats with heightened, fluoxetine-sensitive, ethanol consumption

Running Head: Sex-related effects of reserpine on alcohol intake

Paul Ruiz[1,2]**, Aldo Calliari**[1] **and Ricardo Marcos Pautassi**[2,*]**,**

1- Área de Biofísica, Departamento de Biología Molecular y Celular, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de la República. Lasplaces 1550, C.P 11600, Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel.: +598 2628 9895.

2- Instituto de Investigación Médica M. y M. Ferreyra (INIMEC–CONICET). Friuli 2434, C.P 5000, Córdoba, Argentina. Tel.: +54 351 4681465.

*Corresponding author: Instituto de Investigación Médica M. y M. Ferreyra (INIMEC – CONICET), Friuli 2434, Córdoba, C.P 5000, TE 54-351-4681465, FAX 54-351-4695163; Argentina; email: rpautassi@gmail.com

Research Highlights

- Reserpine and fluoxetine treatment were given to adolescent Wistar rats.
- Reserpine reduced brain dopamine and distance travelled in an open field.
- Reserpine heightened ethanol intake in female, but not in male, adolescents.
- Reserpine heightened risk-taking behaviors in females, but not in males.
- Fluoxetine inhibited the effects of reserpine on ethanol intake and risk-taking.

Abstract

Depression usually emerges during adolescence, is significantly more frequent in women, and exhibits comorbidity with alcohol (ethanol) use disorders. Most of the pre-