



CICLO

CONFERÊNCIAS 19|20

ISPA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO

MIGHT CRUSTACEANS FEEL PAIN?



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Animals face hazards that cause tissue damage and have immediate nociceptive reflexes that protect them from such damage. In addition, some taxa have evolved the capacity for pain experience. The function of pain appears to be linked to long-term changes in motivation brought about by the unpleasant nature of the pain experience. Pain presumably enhances long-term protection through behaviour modification based, in part, on memory of the unpleasant feeling. The talk considers behavioural and physiological criteria that might help to distinguish nociception from pain in crustaceans. Rapid avoidance learning and prolonged memory indicate central processing rather than mere reflexes and are consistent with the experience of pain. Complex, prolonged grooming or rubbing may be beyond mere reflex and demonstrate an awareness of the specific site of stimulus application. Trade-offs with other motivational systems indicate central processing, and a noxious experience might affect behaviour for at least 24hrs. Recent evidence of fitness enhancing, anxiety-like states is also consistent with the idea of pain. Physiological changes in response to noxious stimuli mediate some of the behavioural change, and some of these physiological changes are due to the noxious stimulus not the behavioural response. Thus, available data go beyond the idea of just nociception but the impossibility of total proof of pain that is similar to our own feelings, means that pain in crustaceans is still disputed. Pain in animals should not be defined on the basis of human experience.

14 OUTUBRO 2019

12H30 | AUDITÓRIO 1

HOST
RUI

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