



Apr 22nd, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Olfactory Cues on Rats Responding on a Simple Variable Interval Schedule

Colleen M. Kennedy
Illinois Wesleyan University

James D. Dougan, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Kennedy, Colleen M. and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, James D., "Olfactory Cues on Rats Responding on a Simple Variable Interval Schedule" (1995). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 23.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1995/posters/23>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

OLFACTORY CUES ON RATS RESPONDING ON A SIMPLE VARIABLE INTERVAL SCHEDULE

Colleen M. Kennedy and James D. Dougan*,
Department of Psychology, IWU

Biological variables need to be examined in operant conditioning studies. Optimal foraging theory (Lea, 1982) and behavior systems theory (Timberlake & Lucas, 1989) support the effectiveness of representing natural foraging in the laboratory, with operant conditioning in particular. In the present study, six rats were exposed to three scent conditions (fox, none, perfume) while bar pressing on a variable interval 60s schedule. Responding was expected to decrease during the fox scent condition because the fox is a natural predator for rats. The results indicated no significant difference between the three scent conditions. Further research should look into using other biological variables and also investigate the use of different scents.