

Public Abstract

First Name:Ashley

Middle Name:Kristin

Last Name:Ramsey

Adviser's First Name:Todd

Adviser's Last Name:Schachtman

Co-Adviser's First Name:

Co-Adviser's Last Name:

Graduation Term:SP 2010

Department:Psychology

Degree:MA

Title:The Effects of an mGluR7 Agonist, AMN082, on Conditioned Taste Aversion

Metabotropic glutamate receptors play a critical role in everyday CNS functioning and provide a novel site for the treatment of anxiety, depression, and other cognitive disorders. The current studies examined the effects of AMN082, a recently discovered selective metabotropic glutamate receptor 7 (mGluR7) allosteric agonist, on the acquisition and extinction of conditioned taste aversion. The results show that in elevated doses, AMN082 attenuates taste aversion in learning when administered prior to the conditioning trial, but promotes taste aversion as a malaise-inducing agent when given after the trial. The discovery of mGluR7 specific agonists and antagonists with minimal unwanted side effects is needed in order to ascertain whether certain drug results are due to changes in mGluR7 activity or whether the results are due to confounding effects of the drug compound itself--completely separate from the effects of mGluR7 activity on learning processes per se.