

The effects of Cat Appeasing Pheromone on captive Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)



Sara Sequeira, Rodrigo Serra and Mats Amundin

Department of Physics, Chemistry and Biology - Linköping University

Introduction

The Iberian lynx is the most endangered feline, and the reason breeding centres were created, hoping to reverse its population decline. This study was conducted in *Centro Nacional de Reprodução do Lince Ibérico* (The Iberian Lynx National Breeding Centre), in Portugal, where adult lynxes are kept in captivity. This study aimed to investigate if Cat Appeasing Pheromone (CAP) reduced stereotypies of 4 captive male lynx.



Figure 1 – Centro Nacional de Reprodução do Lince Ibérico

Materials & Methods

This 2 month' study was done in the Autumn of 2015. During Baseline period both groups were exposed to water. During Treatment period, the control group was exposed to a placebo and the test group to CAP. Observations were done for 2 hours, 6 days a week, through video surveillance.

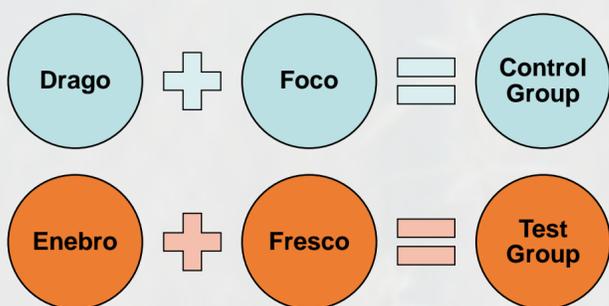


Figure 2 – Experimental subjects.

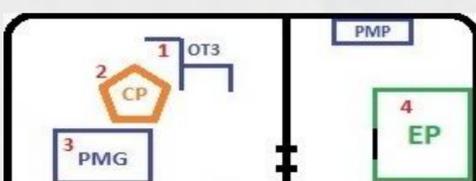


Figure 3 - Enclosure layout: EP - indoor quarter; PMG/PMP - platforms; OT3 – look-out; CP – den. Numbers mark spraying locations.

Results

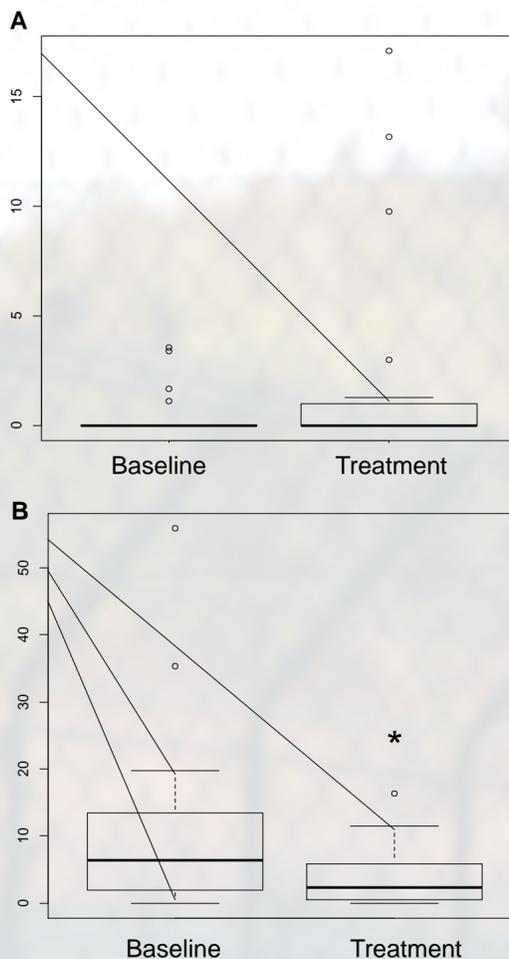


Figure 4 – Percentage of time (y axis) the control (A) and the test group (B) spent performing stereotypies during baseline and treatment periods. Asterisk marks significant difference.

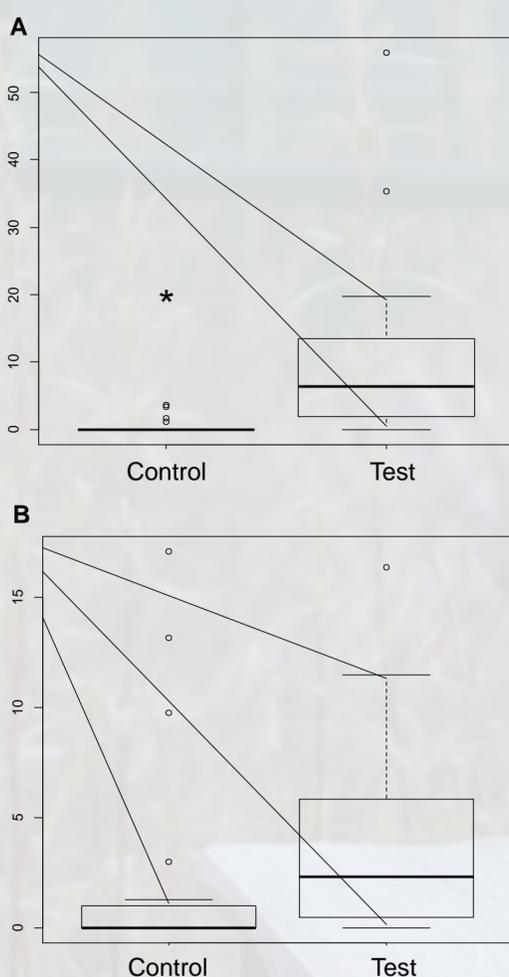


Figure 5 – Percentage of time (y axis) both groups spent performing stereotypies during Baseline (A) and Treatment (B) periods. Asterisk marks significant difference.

Conclusions

The test group displayed less stereotypies when treated with CAP. Pheromone therapy is a promising way of providing environmental enrichment to captive wild felids.

