

READING NOTES: SIGNALLING

MICHAEL DEWITT

Caveat Emptor

Mechanisms of learning are different amongst all animals.

Generally all animals can learn something (where animal is taken as a broad category).

Molecular models of learning are just **models** and not proven laws.

Some definitions of learning

- Conditioned learning is an approach where learning takes place through negative or positive reinforcement (generally just negative). This is a simple form of learning.
- **Unconditioned stimulus** - the stimulus under no learning or experience
- **Conditioned experience** - the training conditions
- **Conditioned response** - what is the desired behaviour or taught response
- **Habituation** - retraining to lose a conditioned response if repeated with some experienced result
- **Associative learning** - connection between cause and effect.
- Operant (instrumental) - the animal makes a decision which has consequences

There is an unresolved debate between the relative importance between conditioning and cognition.

- **Transitive Inference** using known relationships to deduce new relationships (e.g., $A > B$, $B > C \Rightarrow A > C$)

REFERENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101

Email address: dewime23@wfu.edu

URL: www.michaeldewittjr.com