

1 Lactose Malabsorption and Taste Aversion Learning

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38 Running Head: LACTOSE-INDUCED TASTE AVERSIONS

39
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42 ABSTRACT

43 Consumption of foods can be suppressed by two feeding system defense mechanisms:
44 conditioned taste aversion (CTA) or taste avoidance learning (TAL). There is a debate
45 in the literature about which form of intake suppression is caused by various aversive
46 stimuli. For instance, illness-inducing stimuli like lithium chloride are the gold standard
47 for producing CTA and external (or peripheral) painful stimuli, such as footshock, are
48 the traditional model of TAL. The distinction between CTA and TAL, which have
49 identical effects on intake, is based on differential effects on palatability. That is, CTA
50 involves a decrease in both intake and palatability, whereas TAL suppresses intake
51 without influencing palatability. We evaluated whether lactose, which causes
52 gastrointestinal pain in adult rats, produces CTA or TAL. Using lick pattern analysis to
53 simultaneously measure intake and palatability (i.e., lick cluster size and initial lick rate),
54 we found that pairing saccharin with intragastric infusions of lactose suppressed both
55 the intake and palatability of saccharin. These results support the conclusion that
56 gastrointestinal pain produced by lactose malabsorption produces a CTA, not TAL as
57 had previously been suggested. Furthermore, these findings encourage the view that
58 the CTA mechanism is broadly tuned to defend against the ingestion of foods with
59 aversive post-ingestive effects.

60 *Keywords:*

61 Lick pattern analysis

62 Palatability

63 Lactose

64 Conditioned taste aversion

65 Taste avoidance learning

66

67 **1. Introduction**

68
69 The present article is concerned with the nature of the learning that occurs when
70 ingestion of a taste stimulus (conditioned stimulus; CS) is followed by the aversive
71 internal effects (unconditioned stimulus; US) caused by lactose malabsorption. Taste
72 learning with an aversive US can be categorized as either a conditioned taste aversion
73 (CTA; for reviews see Barker, Best & Domjan, 1977; Braveman & Bronstein, 1985;
74 Milgram, Krames & Alloway, 1977; Reilly & Schachtman, 2009) or as taste avoidance
75 learning (TAL; Brett, 1977; Garcia & Koelling, 1966; Garcia, Kovner & Green, 1970;
76 Parker, 1995; 2003; Pelchat, Grill, Rozin & Jacobs, 1983). Both types of learning cause
77 a reduction in the amount consumed of the taste CS. However, CTA also involves a
78 conditioned downshift in the palatability of the CS; no change in palatability occurs in
79 TAL.

80 One method of assessing taste palatability in non-human animals involves
81 detailed analysis of the patterns of licks that occur during voluntary consumption (e.g.,
82 Davis, 1989; Davis & Smith, 1992; Dwyer, 2012). A number of dependent measures can
83 be extracted from the stream of licks, including two that are considered to accurately
84 reflect palatability: lick cluster size (Davis, 1996; Davis & Perez, 1993; Davis & Smith,
85 1992; Higgs & Cooper, 1996; Katsuura, Heckman, & Taha, 2011; Spector, Klumpp, &
86 Kaplan, 1998; Spector & Smith, 1984; Spector & St. John, 1998; for a review see Dwyer,
87 2012), and initial lick rate (Davis, 1998; Davis & Perez, 1993; Overduin, Figewicz,
88 Bennett-Jay, Kittleson, & Cummings, 2012; Spector, Klumpp, & Kaplan, 1998). Lick
89 pattern analysis has confirmed that lithium chloride, the quintessential laboratory US
90 used to induce CTAs, causes a reduction in both intake and palatability (e.g., Arthurs,

91 Lin, Amodeo & Reilly, 2012; Baird, St John & Nguyen, 2005; Dwyer, Boakes, &
92 Hayward, 2008; Kent, Cross-Mellor, Kavaliers & Ossenkopp, 2002).

93 Using this method, we found that gallamine and hypertonic saline, each US
94 known to cause a reduction of CS intake (Ionescu & Burešová, 1977; Lett, 1985; Sakai
95 & Yamamoto, 1997), also conditionally lowers the palatability of the associate taste CS
96 (Lin, Arthurs & Reilly, 2013). Gallamine is a neuromuscular blocking agent that causes
97 transient pain and paralysis in muscle tissues (Cull-Candy & Miledi, 1983) and
98 hypertonic saline is a laboratory model of visceral pain (Drewes, Babenko, Birket-Smith,
99 Funch-Jensen & Arendt-Nielsen, 2012; Giesler & Liebeskind, 1976). Thus, we
100 interpreted our results as evidence that the different types of internal pain caused by
101 gallamine and hypertonic saline can function as a US that supports CTA learning.

102 Another type of internal pain is caused by lactose malabsorption (e.g., Deng,
103 Misselwitz, Dai and Fox, 2015; Johnson, Kretchmer & Simoons, 1974). Lactose, a
104 sweet-tasting disaccharide that is found in mammalian milk, cannot be absorbed unless
105 it is first hydrolyzed into its monosaccharide elements (galactose and glucose) by the
106 enzyme lactase. This enzyme is present in the intestinal tract in maximal quantities at
107 birth through weaning but thereafter levels show a steep decline in both rats and
108 humans (Büller, Kothe, Goldman, Grubman, Sasak, Matsudaira, Montgomery & Grand,
109 1990). In adults, the hallmarks of lactose intolerance are abdominal distention and pain
110 (Saavedra & Perman, 1989). Unabsorbed lactose can also cause bloating,
111 borborygmus and diarrhea. Furthermore, there is evidence that galactose also has
112 aversive post-ingestive consequences in adult rats (e.g., Sclafani, Fanizza, & Azzara,
113 1999; Sclafani & Williams, 1999). Thus, even digested lactose can serve as an aversive

114 US. This leads to our experimental question: Does lactose malabsorption in the adult rat
115 induce CTA or TAL?

116 Only one study has investigated this issue in experimentally naïve rats. Pelchat
117 et al. (1983) concluded that lactose-induced taste suppression should be interpreted as
118 TAL. However, some design issues undermine confidence in this conclusion. The claim
119 about the absence of a downshift in palatability was based on a taste reactivity analysis
120 of responses, or absence thereof, elicited by the CS following two conditioning trials. In
121 the standard taste reactivity procedure (Grill, 1985; Grill & Berridge, 1985; Grill &
122 Norgren, 1978), the taste stimulus is infused directly into the mouth via an intraoral
123 catheter. The evoked orofacial and somatic responses can be classified as either
124 ingestive or aversive. Pelchat et al. used an unconventional taste reactivity procedure in
125 which the experimental animals could voluntarily consume a solution of 40% lactose on
126 the two conditioning trials (i.e., lactose served as the CS and the US). This design
127 choice allows for the monitoring of voluntary intake and the recording of taste reactivity
128 responses. However, use of the hybrid procedure has several problematic
129 consequences. First, the experimenter relinquishes control of US dose when amount
130 consumed by each subject is the determining factor (on the first conditioning trial of the
131 Pelchat et al. experiment, lactose intake ranged from 0.3 ml to 15.0 ml). Second, licking
132 and taste reactivity are competing behavioral responses, which presumably limit the
133 opportunity for the observation of ingestive taste reactivity responses. Third, when
134 voluntary intake is low (or zero) there are fewer (or no) opportunities for the occurrence
135 of taste reactivity responses producing a floor effect in the detection of aversive taste

136 reactivity responses. Finally, it is an assumption that the taste reactivity repertoire is
137 identical in all respects during voluntary drinking and intraoral infusions.

138 These concerns encouraged a re-examination of the nature of the taste learning
139 supported by lactose malabsorption. We used lick pattern analysis because intake and
140 palatability can be assessed simultaneously with this methodology. If lactose
141 malabsorption supports TAL there should be a decrease in total licks, but no change in
142 lick cluster size or initial lick rate in the experimental subjects (Group Lactose) relative to
143 the control rats (Group Control). On the other hand, if lactose malabsorption supports
144 CTA we expect to find a reduction in total licks, lick cluster size, and initial lick rate in
145 Group Lactose compared to Group Control. To afford comparability with our previous
146 research (and to avoid one of the issues with the Pelchat et al. [1983] design), we
147 employed a procedure in which the CS and US were separate events. Thus, we used
148 0.1% saccharin as the CS and 20% lactose as the US (5.7 g/kg body weight
149 administered at room temperature via a gastric catheter). To minimize the influence of
150 stomach distension on performance, CS intake on the two conditioning trials was
151 capped to a maximum of 2000 licks (~10 ml). Prior work reveals that clusters size is
152 prone to increased variance when intake is capped (Lin et al., 2013). Therefore, as in
153 that earlier research, two CS only test trials with 15-min unlimited access were
154 scheduled to provide a more complete picture of the palatability of the taste CS. Finally,
155 to ensure equal exposure to the US, the rats in the control group were given an
156 intragastric infusion of lactose 24 h after the experimental rats received each CS-US
157 pairing.

158

159 **2. Materials and method**

160 *2.1. Subjects*

161 Twenty male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing approximately 300 g were obtained
162 from Charles River Laboratories (Wilmington, VT). They were individually housed in
163 polycarbonate cages (Ancare, Bellmore, NY) in a room with a 12:12 h light:dark cycle
164 that was maintained at ~70°F. The rats were given *ad libitum* access to food (Harlan
165 2018; Harlan Laboratories, Madison, WI) and tap water except as noted in the
166 Procedure section below. The University of Illinois at Chicago Animal Care and Use
167 Committee approved all procedures. Rats were treated according to guidelines provided
168 by the American Psychological Association (2012) and the National Institutes of Health
169 (2011).

170 *2.2. Surgery*

171 The rats were allowed to habituate to the facility for a minimum of 5 days prior to
172 surgery when they were anesthetized with a mixture of ketamine (100 mg/kg, ip) and
173 xylazine (10 mg/kg, ip) and fitted with a gastric catheter (e.g., Davis & Campbell, 1975;
174 Touzani & Sclafani, 2001). Briefly, sterile tubing (OD: 0.065 in; Braintree Scientific Inc.,
175 Braintree, MA) was inserted into the fundus of the stomach and secured with sutures.
176 The tubing was routed subcutaneously to the mid-scapular region where it was attached
177 to a dorsal port (Plastics One, Roanoke, VA) and secured with wound clips. Catheters
178 were filled with sterile saline and closed with dust caps (Plastics One). Following
179 surgery animals were treated with analgesics (meloxicam, 1 mg/kg, sc) and antibiotics
180 (enrofloxacin, 23 mg/kg, sc) once daily for a total of 3 days. Catheters were flushed
181 with ~1 ml of room temperature water daily to ensure patency.

182 *2.3. Apparatus*

183 Eight identical drinking chambers (Med Associates, St. Albans, VT) were used to
184 collect lick data with a 10 ms temporal resolution. As described in detail previously (e.g.,
185 Arthurs et al., 2012), each chamber was located inside a sound-attenuating cubicle and
186 contained a single retractable sipper tube that could be accessed via an oval-shaped
187 hole (1.3 cm x 2.6 cm) in the middle of the right-side wall. To prevent constant contact
188 during drinking, in the extended position the tip of the sipper tube was ~3 mm outside
189 the center of the access hole. A computer in an adjoining room running Med-PC
190 software (Med Associates) and programs written in MedState Notation controlled
191 chamber operation and data collection.

192 *2.4. Procedure*

193 Subjects were adapted to a deprivation schedule that allowed 15 min access to
194 water (capped at 2000 licks) each morning in the drinking chamber and 15 min
195 uncapped access to water in the home cage each afternoon. When the dependent
196 measures were stable across three consecutive morning water sessions, the rats were
197 counterbalanced into one of two groups (n = 10/group) in terms of their performance
198 and the experiment began the next day. Conditioning trials occurred in three-day cycles;
199 water was always available for 15 min each afternoon in the home cage. On Day 1, 0.1%
200 saccharin (the CS) was substituted for water in the drinking chambers and followed, 5
201 min after removal of the rat from the drinking chamber, by an intragastric infusion, via a
202 syringe connected to the intragastric cannula, of either lactose (5.7 g/kg in a 20% w/v
203 solution) Group Lactose (bodyweight 451.0 ± 13.1 g) or an equivalent volume of water
204 in Group Control (bodyweight 444.0 ± 9.4 g). Two hours after morning water access on

205 Day 2, each rat in Group Lactose was given an intragastric infusion of water whereas
206 the rats in Group Control were infused with lactose. Day 3 was a recovery day on which
207 all rats were given 15-min capped access to water in the drinking chamber and no
208 intragastric infusion. On Days 4 - 6, a second conditioning cycle was administered.
209 Beginning on Day 7, two CS only test trials were administered. The test trials were
210 identical to conditioning trials, except all rats were given 15-min unlimited access to the
211 CS each morning and there were no intragastric infusions.

212 *2.5. Dependent Variables*

213 The three dependent variables were: total licks, lick cluster size, and initial lick
214 rate. Using our standard criteria (e.g., Arthurs et al., 2012), lick cluster size was defined
215 as a run of licks separated by pauses (inter-lick intervals) of less than 500 ms and initial
216 lick rate was defined as the total number of licks in the 3-min that followed the first lick.

217 *2.6. Data Analysis*

218 Each dependent variable was analyzed with a mixed design (Group x Trial)
219 analysis of variance (ANOVA) with effect size reported as partial eta-squared (η_p^2). As
220 necessary, significant main effects and interactions were followed up by post-hoc
221 comparisons, simple main effects adopting a pooled error term from the overall ANOVA.
222 All statistical analyses were conducted using *Statistica* software (Version 13; Dell Inc.,
223 2015).

224

225 **3. Results**

226 Four animals were excluded from the study because of blockages in gastric
227 catheters, reducing the number of subjects in each group to eight.

228 Water consumption in the drinking boxes took 13 days to stabilize across each
229 dependent measure. Table 1 shows the performance of the two groups over the final
230 three days of baseline water training. For each of the three measures (total licks, lick
231 cluster size and initial lick rate) there were no significant main effects or interactions (all
232 $ps > .05$).

233 --- Insert Table 1 about here ---

234 The performance of each group during the two conditioning trials, where intake
235 was capped at 2000 licks, is summarized in Figure 1. It will be evident from inspection
236 of the figure that one CS-US pairing was sufficient for lactose malabsorption to cause a
237 reduction in total licks, cluster size and initial lick rate. That is, compared to relatively
238 high stable performance in the Control group Lactose animals exhibited a reduction
239 from Trial 1 to Trial 2 across each dependent measure. For total licks (see Figure 1A)
240 there was a significant Group x Trial interaction, $F(1,14) = 6.15$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .305$, as
241 well as significant main effects of Group, $F(1,14) = 8.0$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .364$ and Trial,
242 $F(1,14) = 13.04$, $p = .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .482$. Planned comparisons of the interaction found no
243 group differences on Trial 1 ($p > .05$) but revealed that, relative to Group Control, Group
244 Lactose made significantly fewer licks on Trial 2 ($p < .05$). Analysis of the lick cluster
245 size data (see Figure 1B) found a significant main effect of Trial, $F(1,14) = 8.38$, $p < .05$,
246 $\eta_p^2 = .375$, but there was no main effect of Group ($F < 1$) and no significant Group x Trial
247 interaction ($p > .05$). Notably, relative to the Control group (Trial 1, $M = 193.76$; Trial 2,
248 $M = 102.32$) there was a much larger between trials numerical decrease in lick cluster
249 size for the Lactose group (Trial 1, $M = 324.83$; Trial 2, $M = 17.43$). However, the
250 interaction term failed to reach significance likely due to the large degree of variability in

251 the lick cluster size data. Finally, for initial lick rate (see Figure 1C) there was a
252 significant Group x Trial interaction, $F(1,14) = 6.01$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .300$, and significant
253 main effect of Trial, $F(1,14) = 7.52$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .349$; the main effect of Group was not
254 significant, $F(1,14) = 3.97$, $p = .066$, $\eta_p^2 = .221$. Planned comparisons found no between-
255 group differences on Trial 1 but revealed that initial lick rate was significantly lower in
256 the Lactose group compared to the Control group on Trial 2 ($p < .05$).

257 --- Insert Figure 1 about here ---

258 Data from the two CS only test trials, where unlimited access was available for
259 15 min, are summarized for the two groups in Figure 2. It is immediately evident from
260 inspection of the figure that lactose malabsorption caused a substantial reduction in
261 both the intake and palatability of the associated saccharin CS, characterizations that
262 were confirmed by statistical analyses. In terms of total licks (see Figure 2A) there were
263 significant main effects of Group, $F(1,14) = 23.00$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .622$, and Trial, $F(1,14)$
264 $= 7.97$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .363$, but the Group x Trial interaction was not significant ($F < 1$).
265 For lick cluster size (see Figure 2B) there was a significant main effect of Group, $F(1,14)$
266 $= 15.20$, $p < .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .521$, but neither the main effect of Trial ($F < 1$) nor the Group x
267 Trial interaction ($F < 1$) was significant. The same pattern of significance was shown by
268 initial lick rate (see Figure 2C): a significant main effect of Group, $F(1,14) = 24.07$, p
269 $< .05$, $\eta_p^2 = .632$, but not significant main effect of Trial ($p > .30$) and no significant Group
270 x Trial interaction ($F < 1$).

271 --- Insert Figure 2 about here ---

272

273 **4. Discussion**

274 Concerns about the experimental design as well as with the interpretation of the
275 results reported by Pelchat et al. (1983) encouraged a re-examination of whether a
276 lactose US supports TAL or CTA. The present results indicate that lactose
277 malabsorption produced a conditioned suppression of both intake and palatability. As
278 shown in Figure 1, comparable unconditioned levels of performance were evident in the
279 Control group and the Lactose group on Trial 1. However, after a single saccharin-
280 lactose pairing, there was a large numerical decrease in total licks, initial lick rate, and
281 lick cluster size in the Lactose group relative to their performance on Trial 1. There was
282 also a clear Trial 2 difference between the Control and Lactose groups for total licks and
283 initial lick rate. As noted in the Introduction, cluster size is susceptible to high levels of
284 variance when intake is limited, so it was not surprising when a similar high level of
285 variance, which obscured statistical analysis, was found in the present experiment. As
286 expected, the lactose-induced suppression of intake and palatability was more clearly
287 displayed during the test trials (see Figure 2) in which there were highly significant
288 differences between the Control and Lactose groups on all three dependent measures.
289 Thus, the present results provide clear evidence that lactose malabsorption supports
290 CTA, not TAL.

291 Pelchat et al. (1983) used a 40% solution of lactose as the US. To keep the
292 lactose in suspension during the conditioning and test trials, the solution was served to
293 the rats at 35°C. Furthermore, to prevent the temperature of the lactose from serving as
294 a cue the daily water was also warmed to 35°C in that experiment. In part to avoid this
295 design complication, in the present experiment we used intragastric infusions to obtain

296 the desired dosing while using a lactose concentration that was stable at room
297 temperature (Machado, Coutinho, & Macedo, 2000; Roos, 2002). We speculate that on
298 the first conditioning trial that the relatively large volume of water infusion received by
299 the control animals may have caused some mildly unpleasant stomach distension,
300 resulting in the reduction of cluster size shown by the Control group on the second
301 acquisition trial. This downshift in cluster size was also evident on the first test trial but,
302 as noted above, there were highly significant differences between the Control and
303 Lactose group on this dependent measure.

304 As reported in the present article, the abdominal pain caused by lactose
305 malabsorption is an effective US that supports CTA acquisition. Using the same
306 approach (lick pattern analysis in a voluntary intake procedure), we have also found that
307 the muscular pain induced with gallamine and the visceral pain induced by hypertonic
308 saline are each effective USs that support CTA acquisition (Lin et al., 2013). Similarly,
309 we have recently found that anesthesia-inducing drugs (ketamine/xylazine and sodium
310 pentobarbital) can serve as USs to support CTA learning (Lin et al., 2017a). Finally, we
311 have discovered that drugs of abuse (e.g., amphetamine and morphine), at dose that
312 are rewarding in other tasks (i.e., place-preference learning and self-administration
313 tasks [e.g., Cappell & LeBlanc, 1971; Cappell, LeBlanc, & Endrenyi, 1973; Hunt & Amit,
314 1987; Parker, Limebeer, & Rana, 2009; Schuster & Thompson, 1969]), are capable of
315 supporting CTA acquisition (e.g., Arthurs et al., 2012; Arthurs & Reilly, 2013; Lin,
316 Arthurs, Amodeo & Reilly, 2012; for reviews see Lin et al., 2014, 2017b). All these
317 findings, particularly those with drugs of abuse, are at odds with the conclusions derived
318 from research that employed the taste reactivity test to determine palatability of the

319 taste CS. Specifically, with drug of abuse USs it is reported that there is no conditioned
320 downshift in palatability of the associated taste CS consequent to contingent taste-drug
321 pairings (e.g., Parker, 1988, 1991; Parker & Carvell, 1986) and that drug of abuse USs
322 support TAL (for reviews see Parker, 1991, 1995, 2003; Parker et al., 2009).

323 It may be tempting to believe that the different methods of palatability
324 assessment—lick pattern analysis and the taste reactivity test—yield different results in
325 the analysis of CTA and TAL. This, however, is not the case. Indeed, we believe that
326 these methods are equally valid. Rather, the issue is entirely based on one's theoretical
327 stance on the definition of palatability—whether palatability is a one- or two-dimensional
328 construct. Lick pattern analysis is inherently a one-dimensional account, ranging along a
329 continuum from highly positive (i.e., large cluster size and fast initial rates of responding)
330 to highly negative (i.e., no responding). The two categories of taste reactivity responses
331 (ingestive and aversive) can be viewed as supporting either a one- or a two-dimensional
332 account. For the one-dimensional account (e.g., Breslin, Spector, & Grill, 1992; Spector,
333 Breslin, & Grill, 1988) palatability varies from high levels of ingestive responses to high
334 levels of aversive responses with a low level of either type of response in the center of
335 the continuum. By this analysis, a conditioned reduction in the frequency of ingestive
336 responses provides evidence of mild-to-moderate CTAs. On the other hand, a two-
337 dimensional account of palatability (Berridge & Grill, 1983, 1984; Parker, 1991; 1995;
338 2003) views each category of taste reactivity responses (ingestive and aversive) as
339 representing independent dimensions. By this analysis, the occurrence of aversive
340 rejection responses (e.g., gaping—indicative of retching or vomiting in the non-emetic
341 rat; Travers & Norgren, 1986) is the sole indication that a solution is aversive and

342 disgusting. Because drug of abuse USs are typically used at low-moderate doses they
343 do not support the development of conditioned gaping responses, although they do
344 cause a conditioned reduction in ingestive responding (e.g., Parker, 1991; 1995; 2003).
345 Thus, using a gaping-dependent definition of aversion leads to the conclusions that drug
346 of abuse USs induce TAL not CTA.

347 Although using the occurrence of conditioned gapes as the defining characteristic
348 of CTA may be appealing, this interpretation carries some problematic consequences.
349 For example, this definition transforms CTA learning into a binary phenomenon: that is,
350 in the absence of gaping there is no CTA and the detection of a significant number of
351 gapes defines the presence of a CTA. The problem with this definition becomes
352 apparent once other species are considered. For instance, primates display an
353 additional aversive taste reactivity response—midface grimacing—that does not appear
354 in the rat (Steiner, Glaser, Hawilo, & Berridge, 2001). On the spectrum of taste reactivity
355 responses, midface grimacing occurs in response to stimuli that are mildly aversive but
356 do not necessarily produce gaping. Therefore, one could define CTA in primates based
357 on a significant increase in midface grimaces, which would still be a binary definition of
358 CTA, but would be a more sensitive definition of CTA, in terms of taste reactivity
359 responses, than is possible in the rat.

360 Recent work supports the idea that CTAs induced with LiCl or hypertonic saline
361 involve a decrease in both intake and palatability, but that these dissimilar CTA-inducing
362 USs may result in some differential behavioral responses (Dwyer, Gasalla, Bura, &
363 Lopez, 2017). Dwyer and colleagues compared CTAs induced by either LiCl or
364 hypertonic saline as assessed by taste reactivity and voluntary intake, while monitoring

365 locomotor activity (to determine fear-induced freezing) during the taste reactivity trials.
366 They report that hypertonic saline can induce a CTA (i.e., significant decreases in
367 intake, cluster size and ingestive taste reactivity; no changes in aversive taste reactivity
368 were found) while also causing an increase in time freezing. Conversely, LiCl induced a
369 CTA (i.e., decreases in intake, cluster size, and ingestive taste reactivity as well as
370 increased aversive taste reactivity) while also supporting a significant elevation in
371 freezing (to a level ~50% that of the hypertonic saline US in Experiment 3), indicating
372 that conditioned fear contributes to LiCl-induced taste learning. Of course, it is difficult to
373 rule out that these USs (hypertonic saline and LiCl) may simply have induced CTAs of
374 different magnitudes. That is, once voluntary intake is completely suppressed the
375 strength of a CTA must be inferred from behavioral responses to involuntary intraoral
376 infusions, which is a completely different scale from voluntary intake. Nonetheless,
377 these findings would seem to fit with the present results, as well as our theory that CTA
378 is a broadly-tuned defense mechanism inherently prone to false positives (e.g., Lin et
379 al., 2014; 2017a).

380 In sum, the present results, obtained using lick pattern analysis to determine
381 conditioned changes in taste palatability, add lactose malabsorption to a growing list of
382 atypical USs that produce CTAs, which include drugs of abuse (e.g., amphetamine,
383 morphine), anesthetic drugs (e.g., ketamine/xylazine, pentobarbital) and internal pain
384 (e.g., hypertonic saline, gallamine). Thus, CTAs can be induced by a wider range of
385 USs than those that are traditionally known to cause gastrointestinal malaise, illness,
386 nausea or sickness (e.g., poisons, toxins, chemotherapy drugs, radiation, vestibular
387 disorientation). Refining our understanding of the distinction between CTA and TAL is

388 not only of great theoretical importance but will also guide analysis of the neural
389 underpinnings of CTA.

390

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Table 1

Water consumption (mean \pm SE) on each of the final three morning baseline trials was characterized using three dependent measures: total licks, cluster size, and initial lick rate (licks in the 3 min that followed the first lick).

Group	Day	Total licks	Cluster size	Initial lick rate
Control	-1	1945.25 \pm 43.35	189.72 \pm 49.83	1060.63 \pm 29.65
	-2	1994.88 \pm 5.27	125.32 \pm 26.90	1029.38 \pm 31.42
	-3	1984.88 \pm 15.13	168.17 \pm 35.40	1053.75 \pm 37.08
Lactose	-1	2000.00 \pm 0.00	276.77 \pm 70.93	1086.00 \pm 33.05
	-2	2000.00 \pm 0.00	279.64 \pm 105.84	1059.88 \pm 28.24
	-3	2000.00 \pm 0.00	248.68 \pm 51.97	1096.38 \pm 27.38

Figure Captions

Fig. 1. Mean (\pm SE) conditioned stimulus-directed performance during the two conditioning trials. Rats in Group Control received 0.1% saccharin followed by an intragastric infusion of water, whereas those in Group Lactose received saccharin followed by an intragastric infusion of lactose. During each trial rats were allowed 15-min to make a maximum of 2000 licks. A: Total licks; B: lick cluster size; C: initial lick rate. Note: the large variance in lick cluster size on Trial 1 necessitating an expanded ordinate axis relative to Figure 2.

Fig. 2. Mean (\pm SE) conditioned stimulus-directed performance during the two uncapped 15-min saccharin only test trials in the control (Group Control) and experimental (Group Lactose) rats. A: Total licks; B: lick cluster size; C: initial lick rate. Note: relative to Figure 1, a different scale has been used for the y-axis in Panel B due to less variance in the data.

Figure 1.

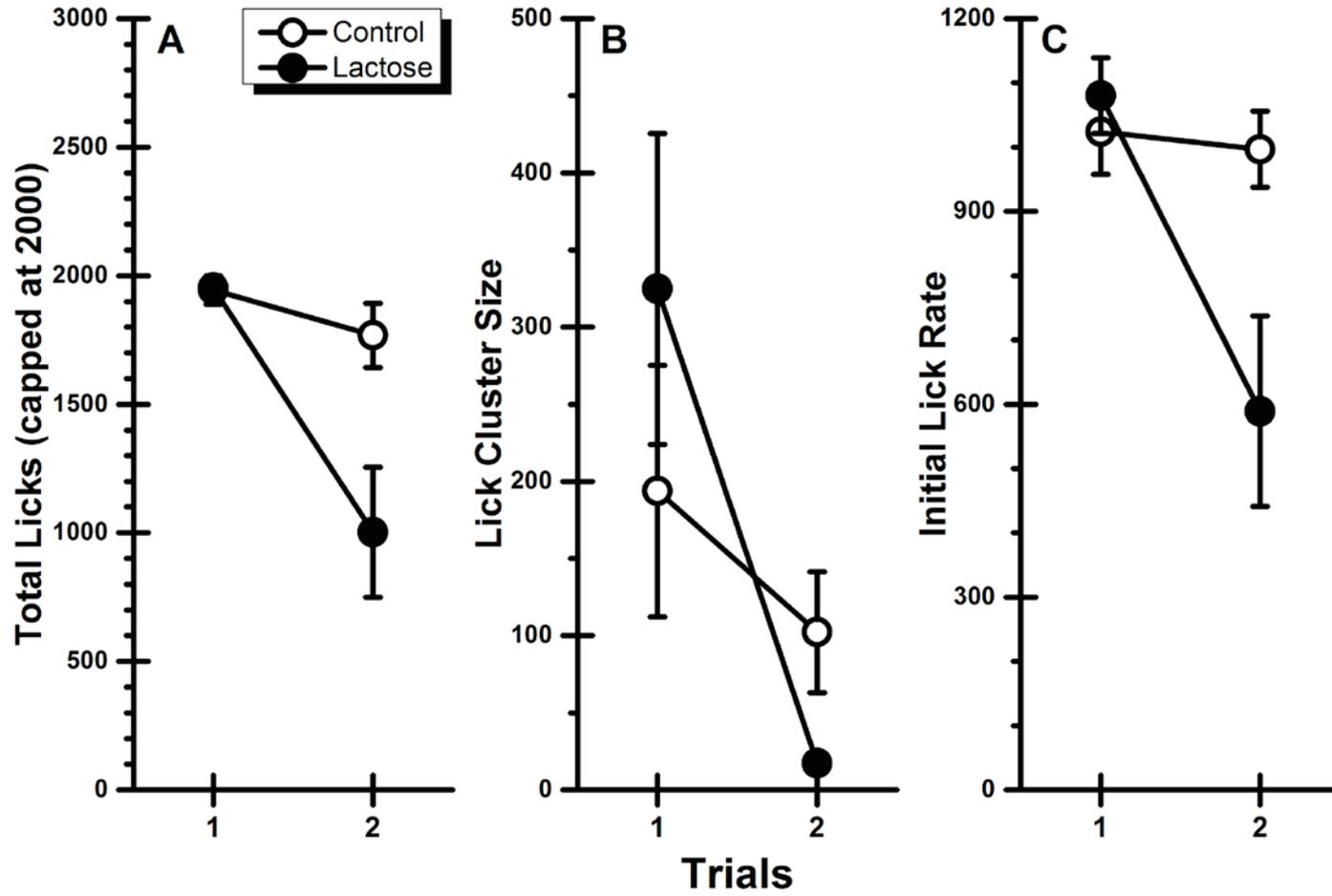


Figure 1-Arthurs et al.

Figure 2.

