Sexual signals in wild mice: Inbreeding avoidance due to imprinting?

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Hypothesis

Female mice who have experienced paternal exposure will exhibit a decreased likelihood of mating with their fathers as a form of inbreeding avoidance.

Methods

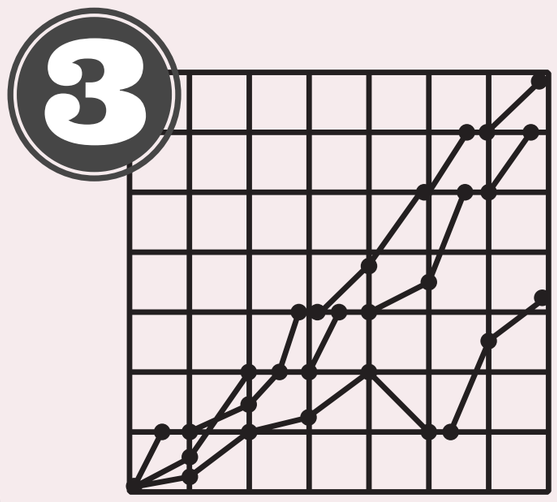
- Set up two large enclosures, each with 3 families of mice consisting of a male mouse, his son, and two daughters.
- One daughter was exposed to her father until weaning and the other was unexposed.

Experimental procedure

Behavioral observations

Genetic paternity analyses

Statistical analyses



Results

No evidence for inbreeding avoidance, regardless of paternal exposure.

Conclusion

Results suggest that imprinting did not significantly affect inbreeding avoidance in female mice.

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