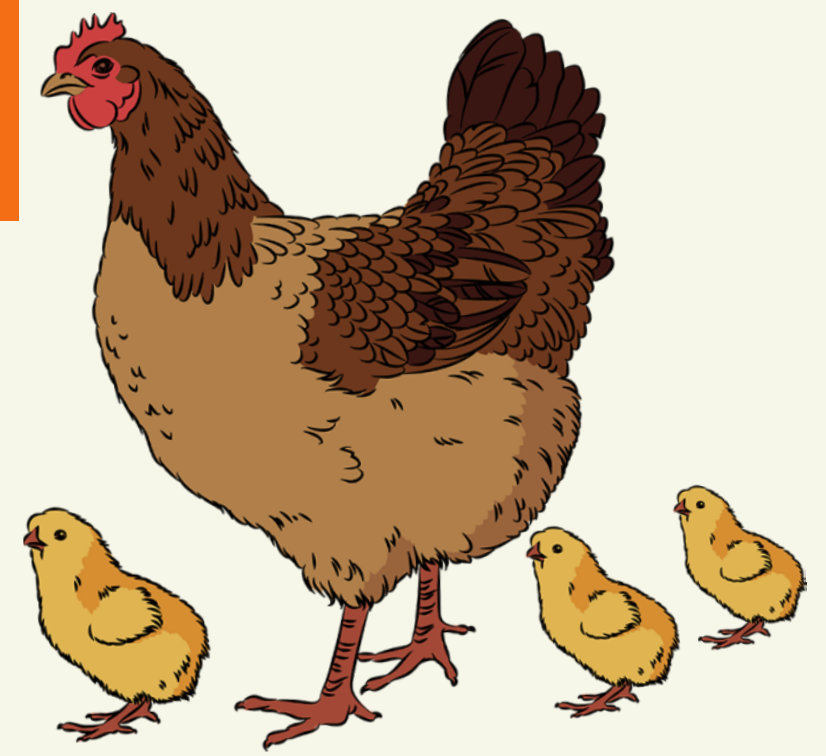


# TO BE IMPRINTED, OR NOT TO BE?

## Long-term Behavioral Effects of Exposure to Imprinting Stimuli in Chicks



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### INTRODUCTION

Filial imprinting is an early learning process in which young animals copy and attach to the stimuli they are exposed to. Thus, Imprinting stimuli influence animals' characteristics and social preferences later in life.

### AIMS

- To determine how long the imprinting effect lasts
- To examine the effect of imprinting stimuli on chicks' interplay in different social conditions.

### RESULTS

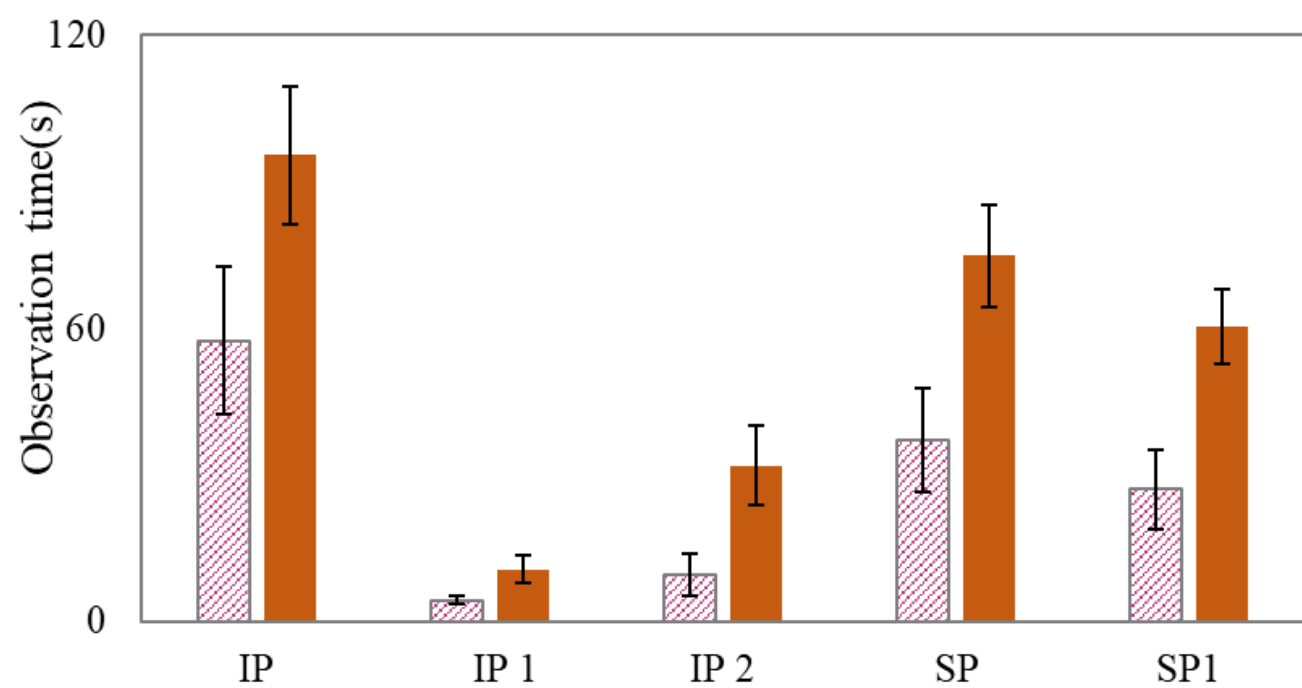


Fig.2. The mean latency for chicks to initiate movement within the given arena. Comparison of Imprinting Preference (IP) and replications (IP 1, IP 2); Social Preference Test (SP) and replication (SP 1)

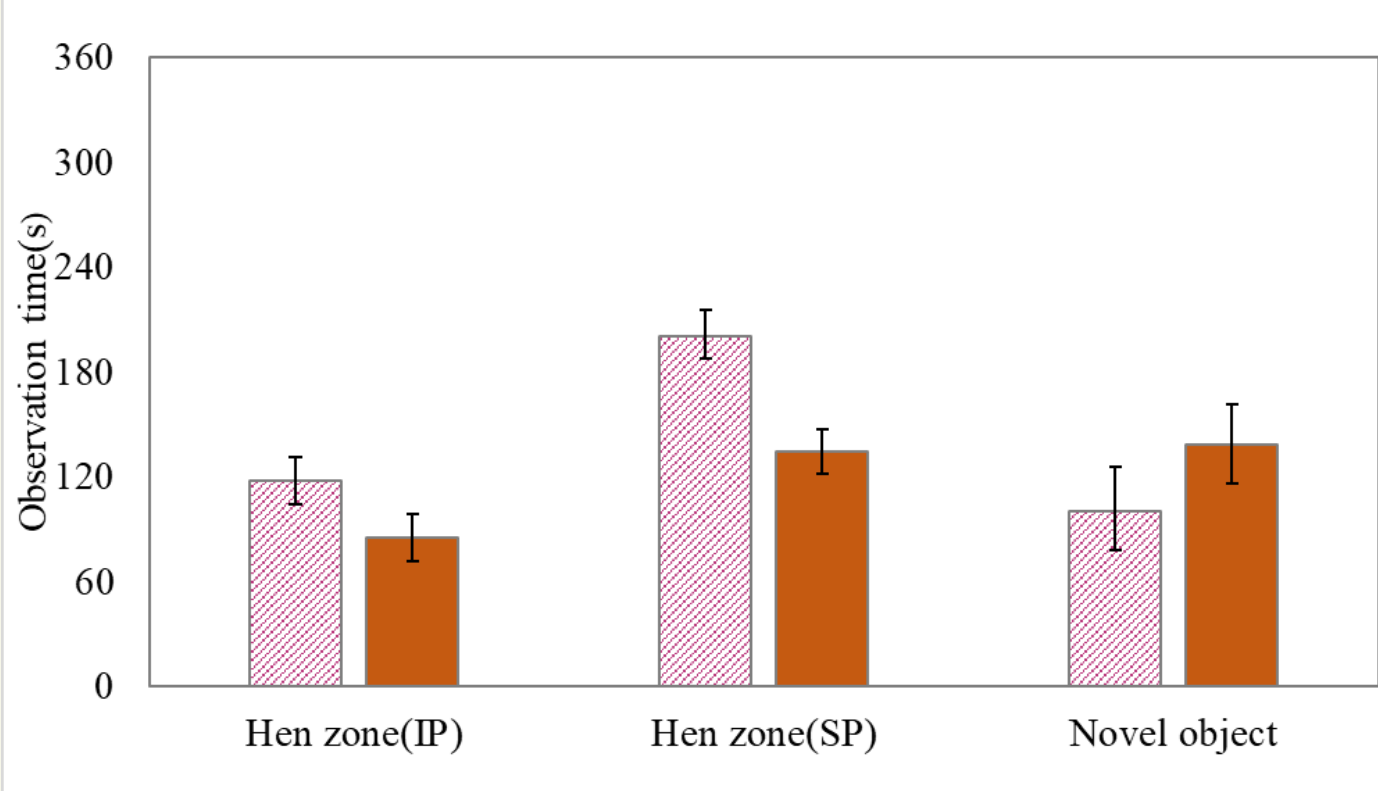


Fig.3. The mean time spent in the hen zone and novel object. Imprinting Preference (IP) and Social Preference (SP) Tests

### METHODS

- Newly hatched chicks (N=78; 39 imprinted chicks -IC; and 39 control chicks -CC), *Gallus gallus domesticus*, were first exposed to Imprinting Procedure. It is followed by Imprinting Preference, Social Preference and Social Isolation Tests.
- All test were replicated to see long-term behavioral traits of chicks.

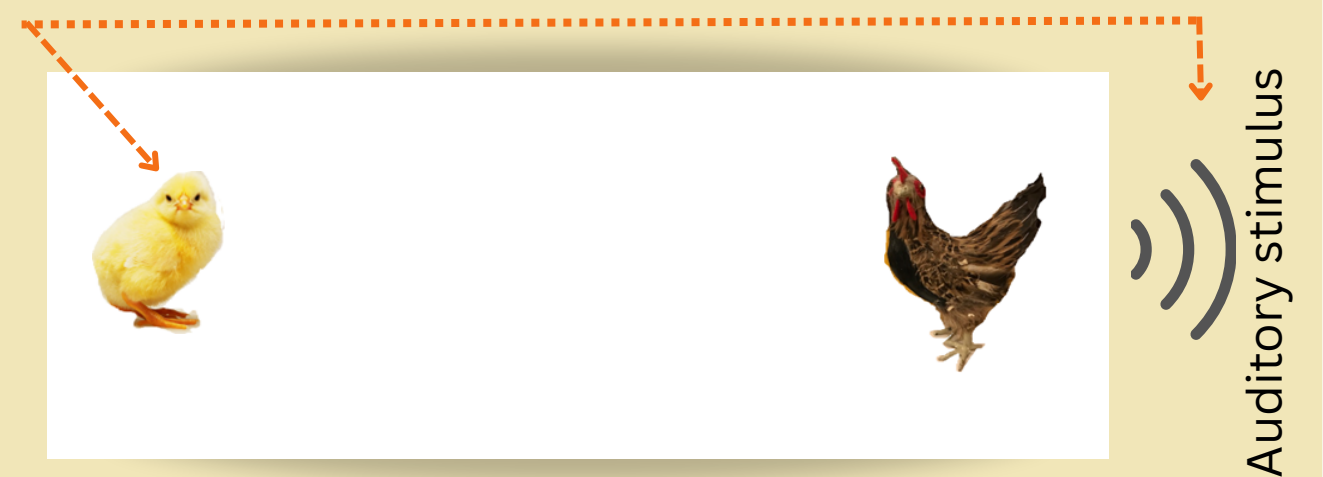


Fig.1. Imprinting preference arena

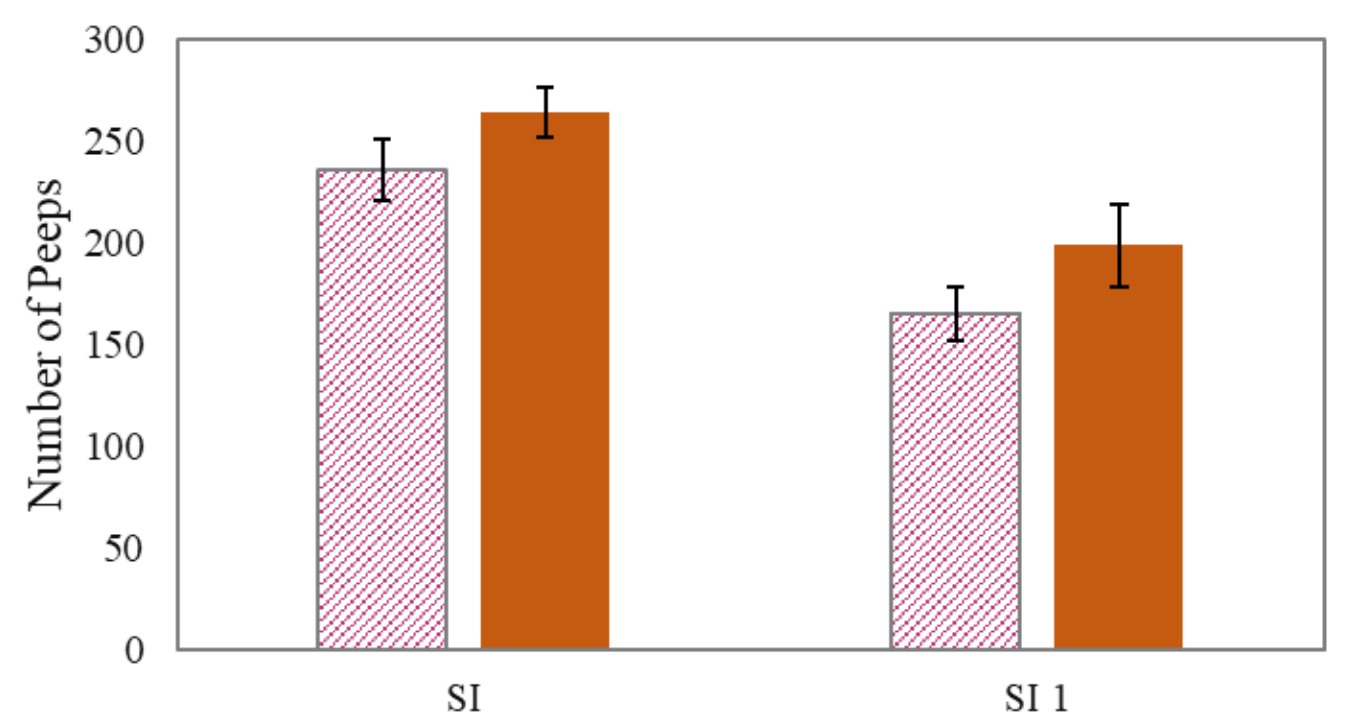


Fig.4. Peeping frequency of isolated chicks in Social Isolation Test (SI) and its replication (SI 1)

### CONCLUSION

Imprinting procedure was consistent in a way of chicks could distinguish imprinting stimuli in a shorter time and spend more time around the stimuli in the presence of a novel object. However, imprinting procedure had no significant effect on peeping frequency.

