Special Issue

Cross-Species Studies of Cognitive Behaviors: Aspects of Physiological Mechanisms

Message from the Guest Editor

In the 18th century, Wolfgang Goethe on the basis of previoous findings formulized the notion of comparative morphology. Having extended the theory into the aspect of behaviour, in 1873, Charles Darwin published "The Expressions of Emotions in Man and Animals". In the 20th century, the reasoning by Darwin was more systematized by Konrad Lorenz, who founded modern ethology. Although the comparison is a classic method, but yet its future is promising and innovative, however, because as to the physiological and neurological mechanisms underlying the evolution, little is known yet, which is the theme dealt with in this Special Issue. It seems that this project is timely because there has been accumulating physiological and neurological evidence during the past two decades. Particularly noteworthy is the development of cognitive neuroscience research. Here, one can submit the results of any attempt of cross-specific comparison, whether it is microscopic one or macroscopic one (e.g., social brain, communication, reproductive mechanism, behavioural ecology) when it concerns with cognitive behaviour.

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