Review of: "Insights into Psychoactive Drug Effects: The Role of Drug Discrimination Techniques"

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I have read this manuscript, which in its abstract claims to „provide an overview". Reading an „overview," I expect a review of the state of science in this field. I am a pharmacologist and toxicologist, but not specialized in psychoactive drug effects, so I should have learned a lot from the manuscript. From a review, I expect a critical summary and appraisal of all experiments, focused on certain, well-phrased questions like: „What is the reliability of drug discrimination techniques for different psychoactive compounds?" or „Is there a close correlation between drug dependency and receptor binding specificities?," or most specific and for me most important: „Is there a difference between dependency and Pavlovian conditional reflexes, and if so, are there differences between the two?"

The manuscript does no appraisal of publications, but partly lists papers, partly explains topics I thought to be known even by nonspecialists – which a scientific paper mostly does not address. It is vague to the point of trivial (in a few places it sounds like an AI-generated text), and some paragraphs read like excerpts from a general textbook. Therefore, I am disappointed since the manuscript does not fulfill the claims from the title and abstract; it only becomes substantial when the authors cover their own work.

Looking through the references cited, I found 33 citations from Chinese authors, often (at least 21 citations) with a focus on cancer research – I do not see the connection to psychoactivity, nor is it explained in the text. Other main topics cited are sleep disturbances, where I see a connection, but also inflammation and infection. Citations about psychoactive drugs, drug dependency, or tests for dependency potential are mostly lacking; therefore, the citations do not cover the database about psychoactive drugs, nor the one about drug dependency but seem to be arbitrary.

Taken together, the manuscript is disappointing – there is no clear hypothesis, no conclusion, and I learned tiny bits of information about psychoactive drugs and mechanisms of dependency research, but I cannot recommend reading it. Would this be a regular blinded review, my judgement would be „reject"; the lone star remains for the few sentences the authors use for their own research, which is not the topic of this review.