

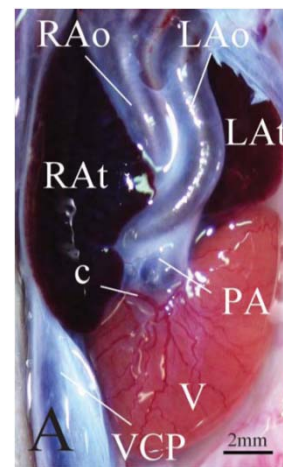


Fasting tolerance in rattlesnakes

Dr Cleo A.C. Leite

UFSCar, Federal University of Sao Carlos, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Unilateral left vagotomy renders rattlesnake unable to regulate pulmonary blood flow and the cardiac shunt pattern, and thus provides a unique model for long-term investigation of the functional consequences of the undivided ventricle in squamate reptiles. Loss of control of the cardiac shunt following selective vagotomy did not change the progressive decrease in body mass or the onset of identifiable fasting stages. Resting metabolic rate and the metabolic response to spontaneous feeding and forced activity were also unchanged. These findings reject the hypothesis that cardiac shunts are central to the control metabolic rate in squamate reptiles.



Wednesday August 27th at 10.15
coffee room at Zoophysiology, building 1131