Tonic immobility: The role of fear and predation.
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AB Reviews data from a series of studies designed to test the hypothesis that tonic immobility (TI) represents an innate fear-potentiated response. In experiments using mostly 3-4 wk old Production Red chickens, fear was operationally defined by behavioral changes associated with long immobility reactions (i.e., defecation) and by certain manipulations, including (a) tranquilization, (b) intense auditory stimulation, (c) punishment, and (d) predatory confrontation with live and simulated stimuli, artificial eyes, and a visual cliff. Findings suggest that fear, while not the cause of TI, is an important antecedent condition for manipulating response duration and susceptibility.