Overshadowing and blocking in a goldfish (Carassius auratus) respiratory conditioning situation.

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AB Conducted 3 experiments in which 96 goldfish were classically conditioned with a shock-induced (UCS) decrease in respiration as the unconditioned response. The Ss showed evidence for overshadowing; that is, they showed greater evidence for conditioning to the more intense element of a 2-element CS. When Ss were trained with a single-element CS for 1 day, followed by a compound stimulus (including the CS from the 1st day) on the 2nd day, they showed evidence for blocking. Thus, training with the 1st stimulus blocked learning about the 2nd stimulus when it was presented in a compound stimulus.