



# OPEN FIELD APPARATUS

**FUNCTION :** To study the CNS activity

**Standard Operating Procedure:**

- Mice were carried to the test room in their home cages and were handled by the base of their tails at all times.
- Mice were placed into the center or one of the four corners of the open field and allowed to explore the apparatus for five minutes.
- After five minutes, the mice were returned to their home cages.
- The open field was cleaned with 70% ethyl alcohol and permitted to dry between tests.
- To assess the process of habituation to the novelty of the arena, mice were exposed to the apparatus for five minutes on 2 consecutive days.

**The behavior scores included:**

- **Line crossing:** the frequency with which the mice crossed one of the grid lines with all four paws.
- **Rearing:** The frequency with which the mice stood on their hind legs in the maze.
- **Grooming:** Duration of time the animal spent licking or scratching itself while stationary.
- **Defecation:** The number of fecal drops produced.

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