

Animal care and use statement

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions (23°C, 12h/12h light/dark, 50% humidity, ad libitum access to food and water) for one week prior to experimentation. Electroacupuncture was carried out with conscious animals.

All surgery was performed under sodium pentobarbital anesthesia, and every effort was made to minimize suffering. All animals were euthanized by anesthetized with pentobarbital (40 mg/kg, i.p.) for tissue collection

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. D. M. B.', located in the lower right quadrant of the page.