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DYNAMIC PLANTAR AESTHESIOMETER

Cat. No. 37400

UGO BASILE
Via G. Borghi 43, 21025 COMERIO – VA, ITALY



ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT TOUCH OF THE PAW

New Instrument, featuring:-

Computer compatibility	:	direct connection to a PC (via optional 52010 software)
Read-out	:	multifunction graphic display
Print-out	:	by incorporated thermal printer

GENERAL

The 37400 Dynamic Plantar Aesthesiometer is a new instrument for the assessment of "touch sensitivity" on the plantar surface of the rodents.

Somesthetic (mechanical) stimulation has a long history of effective clinical use to diagnose pathologies of hyper- or hypo- aesthesia, brought about by drugs, neural pathology or experimental lesions, etc., in model and experimental systems using laboratory animals.

The instrument basically consists of:

- a movable touch-stimulator unit
- a framed metal mesh
- a two-compartment enclosure
- a microprocessor controlled electronic unit

The electronic unit is enclosed into a tiltable cylindrical case of original design, with graphic LCD display, serial port (RS232) and a thermal printer.

The unit also has an internal memory for data storage, scrolling screen review and optional output to PC.

OPERATION

The rat, mouse or other small rodent moves about freely in one of the two compartments of the enclosure, positioned on the metal mesh surface.

Following acclimation after cessation of exploratory behaviour, the operator places the touch-stimulator unit under the animal's paw, using the adjustable angled-mirror to position the filament below the target area of the paw.

A START key is provided at both sides of the handle of the touch-stimulator vessel, to help both left- and right-handed operators, see picture below.

Pressing START invokes the following automatic sequence:

a. an electrodynamic actuator of proprietary design lifts a straight metal filament;

b. the filament touches the plantar surface and begins to exert an upward force below the threshold of feeling;

c. the force increases (at your preset rate of application), until a stop signal is attained. The stop signal is either the animal removing the paw or the point at which greatest preset force is met.



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The actuator filament (0.5mm diameter) produces force over the entire range of all typical aesthesiometer test devices.

Paw withdrawal reflex is automatically recorded using two metrics: the latency until withdrawal, in seconds, and the force at which paw was withdrawn, in grams.

BASIC SPECIFICATIONS

Starting	:	via keys on the touch-stimulator vessel
Force range	:	0 to 50.0 grams, in 0.5 g steps
Force increasing rate	:	adjustable in the interval 1 to 20 seconds, in 1 s steps
Filament travel	:	12 mm
Latency time	:	read-out on the graphic display, in 0.1s steps
Connection to PC	:	through DELTA 9-pin connector. See DATA ACQUISITION

DATA ACQUISITION

The 37400 Dynamic Plantar Aesthesiometer is microprocessor controlled and features direct PC output. Internally-stored data can be routed via a 9-pin D-type connector to the PC serial port (RS232).

Data output requires Win-DAS Software Cat. 52010 to interface the Dynamic Plantar instrument and PC.

The 52010 is a Windows® based Data Acquisition Software Package, which enables the research worker to store the data into individual files, ready to be easily managed by most statistical analysis packages available on the market.

Ask for details!

ORDERING INFORMATION

37400	**DYNAMIC PLANTAR AESTHESIOMETER,** complete with following standard accessories:
37400-001	Microprocessor controlled electronic unit
37400-002	Touch stimulator, complete with filament actuator and adjustable angled-mirror
37400-003	Platform with supporting columns
37400-005	Framed metal mesh
37400-006	Two-compartment animal enclosure
37400-302	Instruction manual
37400-321	Set of two 0.5 mm diam. stainless-steel filaments and two calibration weights (5 & 50 g)
37400-324	Animal-Enclosure Partition, to divide each compartment in 4 spaces (standard)
37400-324	Animal-Enclosure Partition, to divide each compartment in 6 spaces (optional)
E-WP008	Mains Cord

Set of 2 fuses for either 230V or 115V operation

Physical

Power Requirements	:	115 or 230 V, 50/60 Hz 20 W max.
Dimensions		
- electronic unit	:	cm 26 (w) x 13 (d) x 12 (h)
- assembled platform	:	cm 50 (w) x 32 (d) x 40 (h)
Total Weight	:	Kg. 10.20
Shipping Weight	:	Kg. 18.50 approx.

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