antagonized by hyoscine (0·1–1 μg/ml) they were inhibited by phenoxybenzamine or phentolamine (100 ng/ml) in parallel with those to adrenaline, suggesting that contractions to acetylcholine may be mediated via catecholamine release.

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Drug-induced pilomotion: an easily demonstrated α-effect of sympathomimetic drugs.

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It may be difficult to demonstrate α-receptor activity of sympathomimetic amines convincingly, especially when a drug also has prominent β-effects. Pilomotion, a purely α-receptor effect, substantially changes the appearance of the animal and can conveniently be used for this purpose in various laboratory species, for example, mice and guinea-pigs.

Illustrations of three groups of mice were shown, injected subcutaneously with phenoxybenzamine (1·0 mg/kg), propranolol (10 mg/kg) and saline respectively. Isoprenaline (1·0 mg/kg), orciprenaline (20 mg/kg) or salbutamol (20 mg/kg) were subsequently injected by the same routes.

Pilomotion was also elicited locally by injecting α-receptor stimulants intradermally. This enabled both different concentrations to be injected into different sites in the same animal and different drugs to be compared directly. Such a procedure might be suitable for screening drugs for α-receptor stimulant activity.