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## Effects of Beer and Hop on Ionotropic y-Aminobutyric Acid Receptors

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### **Abstract**

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Beer induced the response of the ionotropic γ-aminobutyric acid receptors (GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors) expressed in Xenopus oocytes, indicating the presence of γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-like activity. Furthermore, the pentane extract of the beer, hop (*Humulus lupulus L.*) oil, and myrcenol potentiated the GABAA receptor response elicited by GABA. The GABAA receptor responses were also potentiated by the addition of aliphatic esters, most of which are reported to be present in beer flavor. Aliphatic esters showed the tendency to decrease in the potentiation of the GABAA receptor response with an increase in their carbon chain length. When myrcenol was injected to mice prior to intraperitoneal administration of pentobarbital, the pentobarbital-induced sleeping time of mice increased additionally. Therefore, the beer contained not only GABA-like activity but also the modulator(s) of the GABAA receptor response.

Keywords: Beer; GABA; GABAA receptor; hop; myrcenol

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