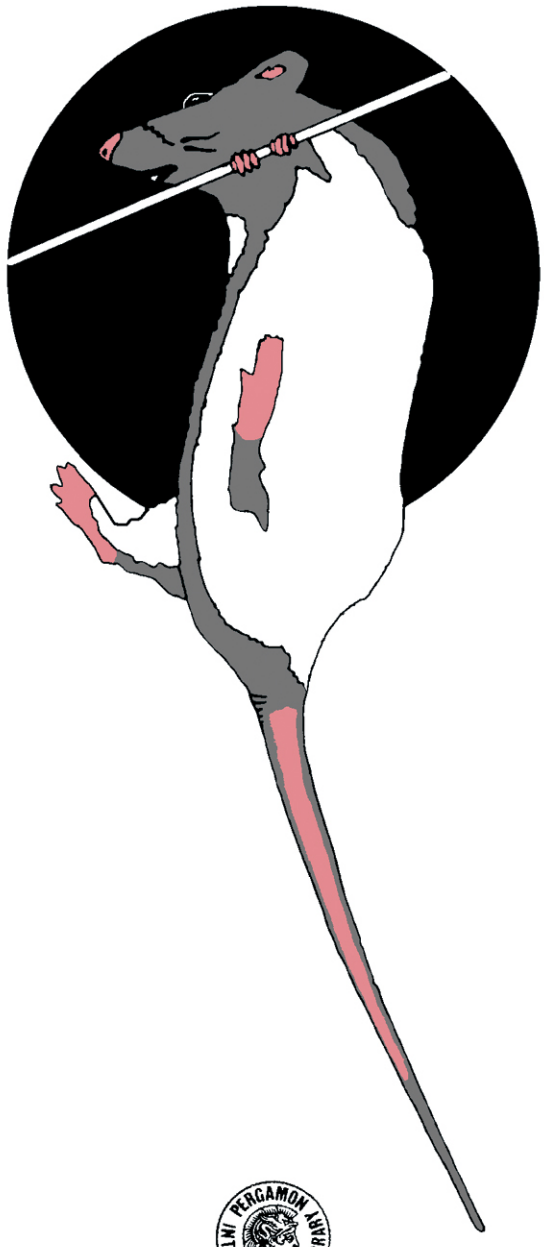
Time in Animal Behaviour

M. Richelle and H. Lejeune



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Time in Animal Behaviour

BY

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AND

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with contributions by

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and Huguette Mantanus

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TO JEAN PAULUS, WHOSE TEACHING WAS SEMINAL TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS BOOK, AND WHO CONVEYED TO US PIERRE JANET'S INTUITIONS ABOUT TIME

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Foreword

THE PRESENT book aims at filling a gap in the scientific literature on biological and psychological time. There are dozens of books on biological rhythms, reflecting the tremendous development of chronobiology and, after years of pioneering work, the wide acceptance of this field by biologists at large. There are also a few excellent books on the psychology of time mainly or wholly devoted to the human level. There is a missing link between these two aspects of the study of time in living organisms, namely the experimental analysis of behavioural adjustments to time in animals. Numerous facts and hypotheses accumulated during the last 25 years or so have not yet been put together in a concise synthesis. This is what has been attempted here, for the benefit, it is hoped, not only of psychologists, but of all those fascinated by the problem of time in living matter. If it helps chronobiologists in becoming familiar with and in integrating behavioural data in their endeavour to build a general theory of biological time, and if it induces psychologists to take into account chronobiological data and thinking in their future research, this book will have fulfilled its goal.

This book stems from a long-lasting interest in the problem of time in our laboratory, an interest that materialized in a number of researches, many of which remained unpublished. This has been the case, especially, for final dissertation or even doctoral theses, done by psychology students. Their work has been abundantly quoted and used to illustrate some of the problems to be discussed here. Their contribution is fully acknowledged. The nine chapters have been written by a group of authors who have been or are currently working at our laboratory. Except for one of them (Pamela Greenwood), the authors do not use English as a native language. Despite careful reading and correcting by our British colleague Derek Blackman and by Pamela Greenwood herself—both of whom deserve gratitude from the team—and after expert final revision by the publisher, the text certainly still suffers from many stylistic and lexical defects. These are due to the linguistic habits of the authors, and are the price to pay for the very success of the English language as a tool for scientific communication.

The help of the members of the technical staff of our laboratory has been crucial at one stage or another in the preparation of the manuscript or in the research on which it is backed. We express our gratitude to all of them: S. Lénaerts, N. Fayen, R. Lénaerts, C. Vanderbeeken, M-A. Thunissen and F. Letihon.

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