Methods of measuring ingestive behaviour in rats
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Introduction
Ingestive behaviour – i.e. eating and drinking – is one of the most fundamental activities that all organisms engage in.

Animal experimentation has been critical in advancing our understanding of the central and peripheral mechanisms that underlie it.

Traditionally, ingestive behaviour has been assessed by measuring consumption but consumption represents the output of ingestive behaviour and not the behaviour itself.

As such, in the last couple of decades, research has begun to focus on how animals eat rather than simply how much they eat.

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However, in many cases detailed analysis of licking can give a nuanced result and has the benefit of being non-invasive, thus presenting a refinement.

This technique has the potential to improve our knowledge of the neural processes underlying feeding.

Conclusions
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References