

Taste Deficiency for Phenyl-Thio-Urea in Southern Sweden

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This study presents an estimate of the prevalence of taste deficiency for phenyl-thio-urea in Southern Sweden. Two hundred students, aged 19-25 years, at the University of Lund were examined by the Harris and Kalmus (1949) technique. One hundred men and one hundred women, all of them of Swedish parentage, were tested and their smoking habits were noted.

Non-tasters, defined as persons unable to taste solution 5 or higher dilutions, were equally distributed among smokers and non-smokers. Even when non-smokers were compared with heavy smokers, consuming at least 10 cigarettes per day or an equal amount of tobacco, no differences were observed (Table 1). These observations agree with those of Falconer (1947) and Pons (1955).

Table 1. Proportion of tasters to non-tasters among heavy smokers and non-smokers

	Tasters		Non-tasters	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Heavy smokers	28	78	12	30
Non-smokers	54	69.2	24	30.8

No sex differences were observed with regard to the proportion of tasters and non-tasters (Table 2); the distribution of taste thresholds was equal in both sexes (Fig. 1).

The observation of an overall 32 per cent non-tasters in the present series agrees with earlier observations from European populations, reviewed by Saldanha (1958).

Table 2. Proportion of tasters to non-tasters in Southern Swedish men and women

	Tasters %	Non-tasters %
Men	67	33
Women	69	31
Combined	*68	32

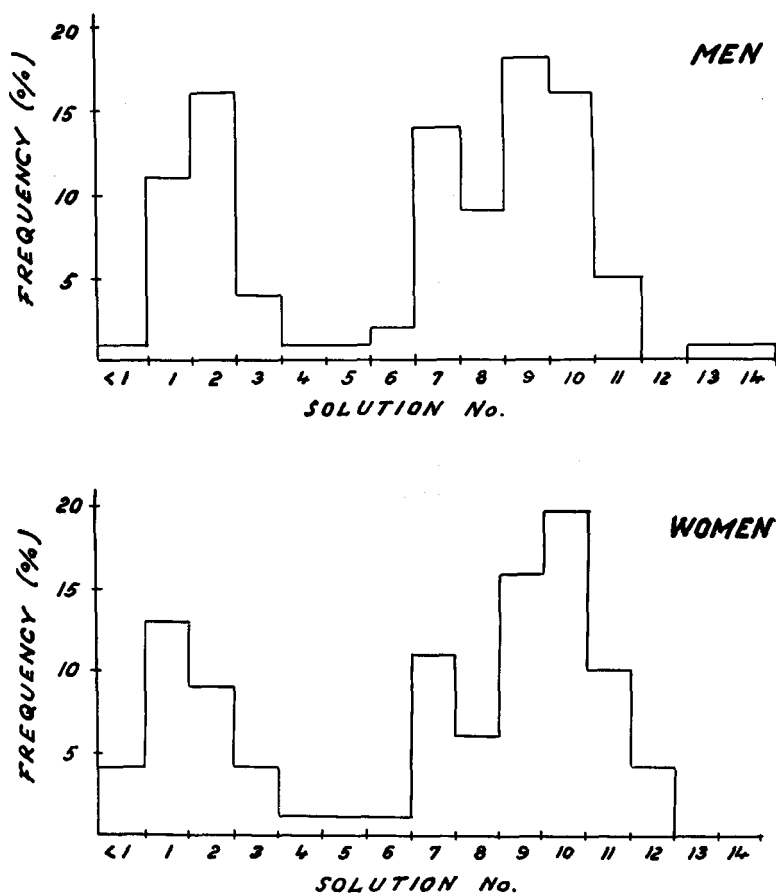


Fig. 1. Taste Thresholds in 100 men and 100 women

Summary

Of 200 students from Southern Sweden 32 per cent were non-tasters for phenyl-thio-urea.

References

- FALCONER, D. S.: Sensory thresholds for solutions of phenyl-thio-carbamide. *Ann. Eugen.*, 13, 211, 1947.
HARRIS, H. and KALMUS, H.: The measurement of taste sensitivity to phenylthiourea (P. T. C.) *Ann. Eugen.*, 15, 24, 1949.
PONS, J.: Taste sensitivity to phenylthiourea in Spaniards. *Hum. Biol.* 27, 153, 1955.
SALDANHA, P. H.: Taste thresholds for phenylthiourea among Japanese. *Ann. Human Genet.*, 22, 380, 1958.

RIASSUNTO

Il trentadue per cento di 200 studenti nella Università di Lund nella Svezia meridionale erano non-gustatori per la feniltiocarbamide.

RÉSUMÉ

Trente-deux pour cent de 200 étudiants de l'Université de Lund, dans le Sud de la Suède, n'avaient pas de sens de goût pour le phénylthiocarbamide.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Das 32 Prozent von 200 Studenten der Universität von Lund im Süden-Schweden war Nichtschmecker für Phenylthioharnstoff.