NEW CONCEPTS IN ANXIETY

Pierre Fabre Monograph Series

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PIERRE FABRE MONOGRAPH SERIES

NEW CONCEPTS IN ANXIETY

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Preface

After more than twenty years of virtual monopoly of the anxiolytic market, benzodiazepines had become synonymous with anxiolytics. This was true not only clinically but also in animal testing, where most tests were optimized for benzodiazepines. Indeed, many potential anxiolytics were screened on their benzodiazepine-like side effects rather than their anxiolytic activity. The virtual simultaneous realization of the dependence-producing potential of the benzodiazepines and the demonstration of the anxiolytic properties of the 5-HT_{1A} agonists suddenly opened up the field of anxiety research, leading to an explosion of activity in all areas from the most fundamental research to drug development.

This fourth volume in the Pierre Fabre Monograph Series attempts to convey this explosion of interest and activity, bringing together a series of chapters covering most of the new ideas in this area of intense research activity. Serotonin, of course, has a very prominent place, but other neurotransmitters potentially involved in anxiety and its control are also well covered. Even the benzodiazepines have benefited from a renewed interest in the understanding of their mechanism and improvement of their profile.

The symposium on which this book is based took place in Castres in south-west France in April 1990. It was sponsored by the Pierre Fabre Research Centre with generous contributions from ITEM-Labo and Elevage Janvier.

We would like to thank everyone from the Pierre Fabre Research Centre who helped with this symposium, especially the members of the Neuropharmacology Department who undertook the local organization. Special thanks are due to the symposium secretary, Martine Dehaye, who so charmingly and efficiently organized the symposium secretariat. Our thanks are also due to Elizabeth Carilla, who, with the help of Nadette Assié, Aude Baduel and Chantal Moret, provided invaluable editorial assistance.

Castres and London, 1990

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