

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	v
DEDICATION	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
HISTORY OF ALCOHOL	1
ALCOHOL PHARMACOLOGY	4
THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON PERFORMANCE.....	5
HISTORY OF CAFFEINE	7
CAFFEINE PHARMACOLOGY	9
THE EFFECTS OF CAFFEINE ON PERFORMANCE.....	10
ALCOHOL AND CAFFEINE PERFORMANCE INTERACTIONS	12
PERCEPTIONS OF INTOXICATION	16
HYPOTHESIS	20
METHODS.....	21
Design.....	21
Participants	21
Materials.....	22
Procedure.....	22
RESULTS.....	26
Time of Administered Measures	26
BAC Measures	28

Number of Estimated Drinks.....	32
Perceived Intoxication.....	36
DISCUSSION	41
Limitations	44
Future Studies.....	45
LITERATURE CITED	46
APPENDICES.....	54
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.....	59

ABSTRACT

A large body of research suggests that individuals are accurate at subjectively judging their own alcohol intoxication when assessed relative to blood alcohol concentration. Although caffeine's ability to antagonize alcohol-induced intoxication is generally regarded as a myth, it is often consumed with alcohol in preparation for tasks such as driving. Currently, however, few studies have directly examined the effect of caffeine consumption on subjective alcohol intoxication.

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the interaction of alcohol and caffeine on subjective intoxication. A screening survey was used to recruit light to moderate drinking males between the ages of 21 and 30 years of age. The subjective effects of alcohol (water, placebo, .04 and .08) with eight ounces of coffee (0, or 2.0 mg/kg caffeine) were measured in 133 subjects. Subjectively, a cup of caffeinated coffee increased perceptions of intoxication for .04-alcohol condition, but did not effect perceived intoxication in other conditions.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my grandfather, John Cramond. The lack of a formal introduction never stopped me from knowing; the best is yet to come.

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Number of Participants.....	27
2. Means and Standard Deviations of Blood Alcohol Concentrations.....	30
3. Means and Standard Deviations of Number of Estimated Standard Drinks Consumed by Alcohol Condition	33
4. Means and Standard Deviations of Estimated Drinks.....	34
5. Means and Standard Deviations of Participants' Perceived Intoxication by Alcohol Condition.....	38
6. Means and Standard Deviations of Participants' Perceived Intoxication Assessments	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Mean Blood Alcohol Concentration for Each Experimental Condition at Post Drinking Assessment Times.....	31
2. Mean Number of Estimated Standard Drinks for Each Experimental Condition, at all Times of Assessment.....	35
3. Perceived Intoxication for Each Experimental Condition at all Three Times of Assessment.....	40