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The Cortex of the Rat: A Stereotaxic Atlas

Karl J. Zilles

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Karl J. Zilles : The Cortex of the Rat: A Stereotaxic Atlas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cortex of the Rat: A Stereotaxic Atlas:

The rat brain is the most widely used animal model in neurobiology. The frequency of its use underlines the need for stereotaxic atlases of the rat brain. The first attempt to fulfill this requirement was made by Krieg (1946c), but his atlas contains only very rough data based on 30 schematic drawings of coronal sections. The drawings are exaggeratedly schematic and significantly distorted. This, together with the fact that Krieg delineated far too few structures in the di- and rhombencephalon, makes the accurate placement of electrodes difficult. Accurate [1] electrode placement is essential for advanced techniques in modern neuroanatomical, neurophysiological, and neurochemical studies. Nevertheless, Krieg's work represents the first delineation of cortical areas in the rat. These delineations were more elaborately produced and partly corroborated by experimental work by Krieg (1946a, b, 1947). Despite its shortcomings, this fundamentally valuable series of reports greatly influenced experimental approaches in the four decades following its publication. The work of Konig and Klippel (1963) was another landmark in the development of stereotaxic atlases of the rat brain. This atlas is one of the most widely used works of reference on stereotaxic coordinates of the rat brain. Some difficulties, however, arise from the drastic changes there have been in the accepted

parcellation of the thalamus, septum, and amygdala since the publication of this atlas.