

Special Issue

Venom Peptides: Role of Predatory and Defensive Adaptations in Their Evolution and Chemical Biology

Message from the Guest Editors

Venoms produced by animals provide a rich chemical arsenal of bioactive peptides and proteins evolved to efficiently subdue unsuspecting prey and to deter predators. The prey capture (offensive) advantages of venom have been well documented for many venomous groups including cone snails, snakes, spiders or scorpions, and their defensive use of venom is instinctively associated with some of our deepest fears. However, the inter-related evolution of these adaptations and how separate evolutionary pressures have shaped the composition of injected venoms for the most part remain to be elucidated. In this Special Issue, we aim to bring together contributions that demonstrate predatory and/or defensive influences on the evolution and structure-function of venom peptides from a diverse range of venomous animals.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Richard J. Lewis

Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia

Dr. Sebastien Dutertre

Institut des Biomolécules Max Mousseron, UMR 5247, Université Montpellier, CNRS, 1919, Route de Mende, 34293 Montpellier Cedex 5, France

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2018)



Toxins

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 4.0
CiteScore 8.3
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/13734

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
toxins@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jay Fox

Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA,
USA

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