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.

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Toxinology is an incredibly diverse area of study, ranging from field surveys of environmental toxins to the study of toxin action at the molecular level. The editorial board and staff of *Toxins* are dedicated to providing a timely, peer-reviewed outlet for exciting, innovative primary research articles and concise, informative reviews from investigators in the myriad of disciplines contributing to our knowledge on toxins. We are committed to meeting the needs of the toxin research community by offering useful and timely reviews of all manuscripts submitted. Please consider *Toxins* when submitting your work for publication.

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