Special Issue

Advanced Research on Animal Venoms in China

Message from the Guest Editors

Animals such as snakes, scorpions, spiders, wasps, centipedes, cone snails and toads have evolved to produce venoms in order to adapt to specific ecological environments, as well as for defense or predation. Animal toxins possess rich diversity, high activity and high specificity, which are main reasons why venomous animals have been used in traditional Chinese medicines for thousands of years. These toxins are able to affect the normal functioning of the human body through various physiological and biochemical mechanisms. Animal toxins have become powerful probes to analyze the structure–function of ion channels and receptors. They are also good tools for exploring physiological and pathological mechanisms. In addition, animal toxins are valuable resources for the discovery of innovative drugs. Recently, Chinese researchers have made many exciting discoveries pertaining to animal toxins. The purpose of this issue is to provide the latest research on the discovery of animal toxins, the mechanism underlining their actions, mining of drug leads from toxins, and the diagnosis and treatment of bites or stings by venomous animals in China.

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

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