



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

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

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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