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Resumo	With the aim to widen the current knowledge of toxinological implications of bites from rear-fanged snakes and biological roles of their venoms, this study focuses on the biochemical composition and toxic effects of the venom of <i>Leptodeira annulata pulchriceps</i> from Argentina. We analyzed the protein composition by electrophoresis and mass spectrometry, and enzymatic properties by quantitative assays on different substrates. Additionally, we evaluated local and systemic toxicity in mice, and tested its cross-reactivity with elapid and viperid antivenoms used in Argentina. This venom showed features reminiscent of venoms from snakes of <i>Bothrops</i> genus, containing components ranging from ~17 to 75 kDa, which are mainly tissue-damaging toxins such as proteinases. Although showing low lethality to mice (LD50 = 20 µg/g body weight), prominent hemorrhage developed locally in mice intramuscularly and intradermally injected with the venom, and the minimum hemorrhagic dose was found to be 12.7 µg/mouse. This study is the first comprehensive investigation of the venom of <i>L. a. pulchriceps</i> , and sheds new light on differences between this and those of the other two subspecies of <i>L. annulata</i> . Additionally, the study provides new insights into the venom components of “colubrid” snakes, advocating for considering bites from this rich diversity of snakes as a public health problem that needs to be addressed worldwide.
Fomento	