



# SNAKE VENOMS AND ENVENOMATIONS

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**S**nakes responsible for severe envenomations are considered a real public health problem, especially in tropical countries. Yet, snake venom, which is made up of hundreds of specific substances, is used more and more in biomedical research and as a diagnostic or therapeutic tool. This text first presents a synthesis of the principal discoveries on venoms

and envenomations. Then paleontology and classification of snakes as well as the biochemistry and toxicology of venoms are simply and precisely described to explain the theoretical basis of the envenomation and its treatment. Knowing the biology and behavior of snakes leads to a better identification of the circumstances of snakebites and thus supports prevention efforts. Recommendations and algorithms of treatments are proposed. This reference also lists all the antivenins produced in the world and the antivenomous plants with their therapeutic properties.

## Contents

### Glossary

### Preface

### Introduction

## PART I ZOOLOGY

### 1. The Zoology of Snakes

Palaeontology

Anatomy

The Systematics of the Snakes

## PART II VENOMS

### 2. The Venom Apparatus

The General Evolution of the Venom Apparatus

The Anatomy of the Venom Apparatus

The Composition of the Venom

### 3. The Toxicology of the Venoms

Measuring Toxicity

Effects on Cells

Effects on the Nervous System

Effects on the Cardio-vascular System

Effects on Haemostasis

Necrotizing Activity

Toxicokinetics

The Utilization of Venoms in Research and Therapeutics

### 4. Antidotes and Immunotherapy

Traditional Medicine

Principles and Mechanisms of Immunotherapy

Medical Treatment

Vaccination

## PART III ENVENOMATIONS

### 5. The Epidemiology of Envenomations

The Ecology of Snakes

Human Behavior

The Epidemiology of Bites

### 6. Clinic and Treatment of Envenomations

Symptomatology and Clinical Pathology of Envenomations

The Treatment of Envenomations

Evaluation of the Availability of Antivenins and the Improvement of Their Distribution

Prevention of Envenomations

**Appendix 1** Practical Measuring of the LD<sub>50</sub> by the Spearman-Kärber Method

**Appendix 2** Symptomatic Action of Certain Plants

**Appendix 3** Antivenom Producers and Their Products

**Appendix 4** French Legislation Regarding the Keeping of Venomous Animals

### Bibliography

### Index



