

IMMUNE RESPONSE OF BOTHROPS ALTERNATUS SNAKE VENOM IN  
ASSOCIATION WITH THE AQUEOUS EXTRACT FROM SCHYZOLOBIUM  
PARAHYBA

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The treatment against envenomation by snakebite is made with antibodies antivenom produced in animals as horses and goats. One of the problems of the immunizations is the suffering of the used animals that present a time of life reduced due to toxicity of the used antigen. To decrease these damages, in the present work we use the crude aqueous extract of *Schizolobium parahyba* (AE), in attempt to produce an antiserum from the complex extract/venom of *Bothrops alternatus* snake venom (CV). The challenge for the production of antibodies against only CV (group 1); CV + AE (group 2) and only AE (group 3). Six male rabbits New Zeland (3kg) had been used and distributed for each group (two animals/group). Each animal received six inoculations in intervals of seven days. For group 1 the production of antibodies was positive, but for groups 2 and 3 were negative. AE inhibited the production of antibodies of group 2 and alone did not develop immune response (group 3). When the produced antiserum was tested by immunodifusion presented a title of 1/8, but in the presence of the extract this title was of 1/32.

KEY WORDS: *Schizolobium parahyba*, *Bothrops alternatus* venom, antibodies, aqueous extract.

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