

CHARACTERIZATION OF HYALURONIDASE ACTIVITY FROM SEVERAL VIPERIDAE SNAKE VENOMS AND PARTIAL ISOLATION OF HYAURONIDASE FROM *CROTALUS DURISSUS COLILLINEATUS* SNAKE VENOM

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Snake venoms are a rich source of toxic and non-toxic enzymes. Some toxic enzymes such as proteinases and phospholipase A₂ are well characterized. However many non-toxic enzymes, such as hyaluronidase, have not been studied extensively. This study had as goal determine the hyaluronidase activity from several brazilian snake venoms, in order to determine which venom was the best source for isolation of the enzyme. The hyaluronidase activity was determined by turbidimetric and zymogram assay. Since *Crotalus durissus colillineatus* venom showed the highest activity, this one was used for purification of hyaluronidase. A sample of 50 mg of *Crotalus durissus colillineatus* crude venom was dissolved in water and submitted to a precipitation process for concentrate hyaluronidase in the soluble part. It was recouped 13 mg of protein, witch was applied in a column packed with Sephadex G-75 resin. The peak containing hyaluronidase activity showed proteic components among 66 to 14 KDa and coagulant and fibrinogenolytic activity, while hemorrhagic and phospholipase A₂ activity was absent.

Key Words: *Crotalus durissus colillineatus*, Hyaluronidase, snake venom.