

... .. slow and immature  
we discuss the implications of our data.

073. COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF ANTISERA AGAIST DIFFERENT TOXINS.

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Gamma radiation has already shown its ability to detoxify snake venoms and toxins, preserving its immunogenic properties. When immunizing mice with irradiated crotoxin, we observed a species specific immune response, in opposition to commercial crotalic antisera which present a high cross reactivity with other genera. In the present work, we irradiated Bothrops jararaca whole venom and investigated cross reactivity of antibodies raised against it in rabbits. The cross reactivity remained the same as with commercial bothropic antiserum with ten venoms assayed. These data suggest that when irradiated mixtures of proteins, instead of purified toxins, a mutual protection of the mixture component occurs, preserving native epitopes, inducing an immune response similar to the observed when immunizing the animals with the native venom.