97-P-11 **BEHAVIOURAL ALTERATIONS INDUCED BY CROTOXIN IN RATS.** V S Vassilieff[1], E G Moreira[1], J R Rogero[3], N Nascimento[3], G J M Rosa[2]. [1]Pharmacology Dep., [2]Biostatistic Dep., IB, UNESP, Botucatu - SP; [3]Radiobiology Division, IPEN/CNEN, São Paulo - SP, Brazil.

Crotoxin is the most toxic and abundant substance among the pharmacological active components of *Crotalus durissus terrificus* venom. Considering that it presents a neurotoxicity (Ito, J. et al., Psycopharmacol, 101:27-33, 1990), the objective of this research was to investigate crotoxin activity on rat's behaviour. Male Wistar rats weighing 180-250 g, and housed under 12 h light/dark cycle, were used. Crotoxin (100, 250, 500 µg/kg) or vehicle, ip, were administered 2 h before the tests. It increased time (s) of grooming ($\hat{y}$=15.55+0.015X; R^2=62.92%) and freezing ($\hat{y}$=5.2+0.014X; R^2=75.28%); and decreased number of ambulation ($\hat{y}$=8.11-0.011X+0.000016X^2; R^2=96%) and rearing ($\hat{y}$=4.71-0.0015X; R^2=75.78%) in open-field test. In holeboard test, it decreased number of head-dips ($\hat{y}$=2.49 - 0.00096X; R^2=88.22%); and, in elevated plus-maze test, it decreased number of open arms entries ($\hat{y}$=2.45-0.0036X+0.0000069X^2; R^2=66.8%) and time (s) spent on open arms ($\hat{y}$=73.8-0.23X+0.00043X^2; R^2=83.6%). These data were the most representative ones and were analysed by ANOVA, for one way classification, using ortogonal polynomial ($p<0.05$). In summary, it was demonstrated a crotoxin anxiogenic activity, which might be related to the decreased exploration.