

BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY



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BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

*Founded in 1877 by Felix Hoppe-Seyler as
Zeitschrift für Physiologische Chemie*

Felix Hoppe-Seyler (1825–1895) was a pioneer of biochemistry, remembered not only for his discovery of hemoglobin and his contributions to the chemical characterization of many other biological compounds and processes but also for having been the mentor of Friedrich Miescher and Albrecht Kossel. In his preface to the first issue of *Zeitschrift für Physiologische Chemie*, Felix Hoppe-Seyler coined the term *Biochemistry* ('Biochemie') for the then newly emerging discipline.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

The venom gland of the giant ant *Dinoponera quadricaps* (pictured on the cover) produces several biologically active anti-infective peptides with tripanomicidal properties. In their study presented on pp. 187–196 in this issue, Bandeira Lima et al. investigated some of the venom-derived components regarding their activity against *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the causative agent of Chagas disease. Four dinoponeratoxins were tested against epimastigote, trypomastigote and amastigote forms of the benznidazole-resistant Y strain of *T. cruzi* and in mammalian host cells. The results indicate that one particular polypeptide from the *D. quadricaps* venom (M-PONTX-Dq3a) might be a promising candidate for the development of active compounds against Chagas disease.

Image courtesy of Gandhi Rádis-Baptista, Fortaleza, Brazil.



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