

# The Bushmaster (Cuaima) snake (*Lachesis muta muta*) of the Neotropical forest: the description of several haemostatic and biological activities in its venom

## La serpiente Bushmaster (Cuaima) (*Lachesis muta muta*) del bosque Neotropical: descripción de varias actividades hemostáticas y biológicas en su veneno

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### ABSTRACT

Cuaima (*Lachesis muta muta*)(Lmm) is responsible for particular envenomations that occur mainly in people who are exploring forest areas, in logging activities, mining exploitation (mainly gold and diamonds) or indigenous people who live in small communities and develop their vital activity in tropical and subtropical jungles of the Venezuelan Lmm territory. A fibrinolytic toxin has been purified from the venom of bushmaster cuaima by size exclusion chromatography Sephacryl 300 chromatography column. Fractions collected with high fibrinolytic and scarce haemorrhagic activities were further fractionated by a cationic exchange Carboxymetil-Sepharose (CMS) chromatography column. From CMS was obtained a molecular mass ~26 kDa single band by SDS-PAGE, called Yuyilysin, which had fibrinolytic activity that was completely lost after treatment with ethylene di-amine tetra acetic acid (EDTA). In conclusion, Yuyilysin showed a broader spectrum of activities, with moderate haemorrhagic activity, non-oedematogenic achievement, but strong fibrinolytic and coagulant actions.

**Key words:** Fibrinolytic activity; neotropical forest; metalloproteases; Turimiquire range; Yuyilysin

### RESUMEN

La serpiente Cuaima (*Lachesis muta muta*) (Lmm) es responsable de envenenamientos que ocurren principalmente en personas que están explorando áreas forestales, en actividades de tala, explotación minera (principalmente oro y diamantes) o pueblos indígenas que viven en pequeñas comunidades y desarrollan su actividad vital en las selvas tropicales y subtropicales del territorio de Lmm venezolano. Se ha purificado una toxina fibrinolítica del veneno de la cuaima mediante cromatografía de exclusión molecular, en columna de cromatografía Sephacryl 300. Las fracciones recolectadas con actividad fibrinolítica alta y escasa acción hemorrágica se fraccionaron adicionalmente mediante una columna de cromatografía de intercambio catiónico Carboximetil-Sepharose (CMS). A partir de CMS se obtuvo una banda única mediante SDS-PAGE, de masa molecular ~26 kDa, denominada Yuyilysin, la cual presentaba actividad fibrinolítica que se perdía por completo tras el tratamiento con ácido etilendiamina tetraacético (EDTA). En conclusión, la yuyilisina mostró un espectro de actividades más amplio, con actividad hemorrágica moderada, no edematogénica, pero con acciones fibrinolíticas y coagulantes intensas.

**Palabras clave:** Actividad fibrinolítica; bosque neotropical; metalloproteasas; cordillera Turimiquire; Yuyilysin

## INTRODUCTION

Each year, beyond the predictable 140,000 deaths that take place worldwide by snakebite envenomation, ~175 (1.25 %) deceases happen in Venezuela [18]. In the wilderness natural world there are flora and fauna with the ability to produce toxins that can modify the normal physiological processes of mammals [9]. These toxins, are complex mixtures of proteins, peptides, enzymes, non-enzymes and residues of components such as saccharides and minerals [18]. In some cases, snake venom toxins are used to immobilise the prey and begin to digest it by altering critical points of the victim's haemostatic and neurologic physiological system. This flows from anatomical reservoirs known as venomous glands [21]. Some of these molecules, as metalloproteases bind to fibrinogen and degrade their molecular chains, causing fibrinogen  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  chains degradation; altering the coagulation process. Others, like the serine proteases have thrombin-like action, decreasing the amount of fibrinogen in the plasma [17, 20].

Cuaima (*Lachesis muta muta*) (Lmm) is the biggest venomous snakes in Venezuela. In range and habitat predilection, the cuaima is usually found in lowlands, near swamps and streams, but infrequently in water. It is responsible for specific envenomations that happen principally in people who are exploring jungle areas, in mapping activities, mining exploitation (mainly gold and diamonds) or indigenous people who live in small communities and develop their vital activity in tropical and subtropical forests of the Venezuelan territory.

The patients that the laboratory staff have had the opportunity to see or those reported by doctors from neighboring rural areas, refer that the conspicuous symptoms of Lmm bite are those involving the haemostatic and nervous system. The Lmm venom also has similar pathophysiological activities as *Bothrops* venom: coagulant, haemorrhagic and inflammatory, and also presenting enzymes with phospholipase activity with local myotoxicity action. However, it is well differentiated from *Bothrops* venom because present kininogenase activity, which could explain neurotoxic alterations, observed in the Lmm clinical picture [5].

Since these snakes inhabit tropical forests, it is difficult to capture or maintain them in captivity, which explains the fact that the literature lack of many clinical studies, considering only the effects of their venom in experimental models. Thus, the most relevant symptoms caused by Lmm venom are caused by the action of enzymes from the group of metalloproteases, but little is known about the structure and biological activities of the metalloproteases in Lmm venom. In the development of the current study, it has come across several anticoagulant/fibrinolytic factors of different masses in this venom. The specific toxins unfavorably distressing blood coagulation events may digeste fibrin/fibrinogen or some other coagulation factors in the plasma. These toxins, presenting this attainment on fibrin/fibrinogen have subsequently great importance for their feasible therapeutic potential against intravascular coagulation [4, 13, 14].

The research objective was to describe among others, the presence of a protein called Yuyilysin, which showed a broader spectrum of activities, with moderate haemorrhagic activity, non-oedematogenic achievement, but strong fibrinolytic and coagulant actions.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Reagents

Lmm dry-pooled venom was obtained from the Serpentarium of the Tropical Medicine Institute of the Universidad Central of Venezuela. Molecular exclusion Sephacryl 300 and cationic exchange Carboxymetil-Sepharose (CMS) chromatography columns were from Sigma Aldrich, USA. Human fibrinogen was from Aniara Corp. (Mason, OH, USA). Other fine chemicals used were purchased from Sigma Chemicals, USA (St. Louis, MO, USA).

### Venom collection

The pooled Lmm snake venom was obtained by manually milking 4 adult specimens of both sexes. The animals were collected at 900 meters above sea level in the Turimiquire range (Anzoátegui State, Venezuela). This mountainous massif includes the north of Monagas, Sucre and Anzoátequi States, Venezuela. The coordinates are between 10.1165°N or 10°6'59.5"N and 63.8691°W or 63°52'8.7"W. The region of origin of the specimens under study presents a climate influenced by the northeast trade winds ("vientos alisios"), with average annual temperatures of 28°C and annual rainfall from 1500 to 2500 millimeters (mm); the vegetation is subtropical rainforest and semi-deciduous forests in the foothills, forming part of the great Andean-American folding [15].

Venom was extracted by allowing the snake to bite into para-film® stretched over a disposable plastic cup. Each venom sample was centrifuged (Allegra® X-30 Centrifuges, Beckman Coulter, USA) (500 × G for 10 minutes (min), filtered through a 0.45 micrometres ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) filter under positive pressure, and frozen at -90°C (Forma™ serie 900, Thermo Scientific, USA) until lyophilised.

### Protein concentration

Protein concentration of Lmm venom was spectrophotometric (Espectrofotometer Hach DR2010, Spain) measured, accepting that 1 unit of absorbance·cm<sup>-1</sup> of wavelength at 280 nanometres (nm) corresponds to 1 milligram (mg) protein·millilitres (mL)<sup>-1</sup> [24].

### Mice

Male mice (*Mus musculus*) from the National Institute of Hygiene (NIH) strain weighing 20 to 22 grams (g) were purchased from the National Institute of Hygiene "Rafael Rangel" (Caracas, Venezuela) animal facility. The mice were kept in cages (Plastic box, Tecniplast, Milano, Italy), at room temperature with 12 hours (h) of natural light and *ad libitum* water and food until experimentation.

### Ethical statement

Expert personnel arranged all the experimental techniques relating to the use of live animals. Pertinent regulations as well as institutional guidelines, according to protocols ratified by the Institute of Anatomy Ethical Committee of the Universidad Central de Venezuela following the ethical principles in animal research adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) [26].

### Lethality: determination of the lethal dose fifty (LD<sub>50</sub>) of Lmm venom

The LD<sub>50</sub> was determined by the Spearman-Kärber method [11], injecting intraperitoneally (ip.) a volume of 0.2 microliter ( $\mu\text{L}$ ) of

serial dilutions of Lmm venom (2 to 15 mg·kilograms (kg)<sup>-1</sup> body weight), into NIH mice strain weighing 20 to 22 g. Five groups of 5 mice per dose were used, the animals were kept under observation for a period of 48 h [23]. Control group animals were injected with isotonic saline.

## Fractionation of Lmm venom

### Size exclusion chromatography from Lmm crude venom

Fifty mg of Lmm venom were fractionated by Sephacryl 300 (13 x 130mm) chromatography column equilibrated with 0.02 Molar (M) sodium phosphate, pH 6.5 at a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min<sup>-1</sup>. The detection of proteins was spectrophotometrically carried out at 280 nm.

### Carboxymetil-Sephrose (CMS) cationic exchange chromatography

Fractions collected on size exclusion chromatography with high fibrinolytic and scarce haemorrhagic activities were further fractionated, by a cationic exchange Carboxymetil-Sephrose (CMS) chromatography column. To carried out this fractionation 2 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup> of Lmm venom fraction FIV (with fibrinolytic activity) was bound to CMS column at 4°C. The proteins were eluted with phosphate buffer saline (PBS) 0.005 M NaCL, pH 7.5 through a stepwise gradient using increased ionic strengths (0.05 M, 0.1 M, 0.15 M and 0.2 M). Fractions were arranged according to the chromatographic profile and were dialysed against 0.15 M phosphate buffer - 1.5 M ammonium sulphate, pH 8.0, concentrated by membranes YM10 (Amicon, USA). The eluted material was grouped according to the chromatographic profile at 280 nm. Then, for five high fractions obtained, the fibrinolytic and haemorrhagic activities were tested, dispensed in vials and stored at -30°C (Frigidaire FGVU21F8QF Vertical Freezer, USA) until use. Fraction 5 showed the highest fibrinolytic activity and was chosen for characterisation. A total of 10 runs were carried out to obtain enough protein to test.

### Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

The crude Lmm venom and the CMS-5 fraction were run in electrophoresis under reduced conditions (8 - 20 %), using methods [10, 12, 22] to detect the proteins. For the crude Lmm venom, the polypeptides found were classified into groups, based on their relative molecular masses, establishing that the very high ones were greater than 200 kilodaltons (kDa), high between 200 - 66.2 kDa, intermediate 66.2 - 21.5 kDa and low between 21.5 - 6.5 kDa and very low those below 6 kDa [6].

### Haemorrhagic analysis: minimum haemorrhagic dose (MHD)

The haemorrhagic activity of the Lmm venom and its CMS-5 fraction was done with a modified Kondo et al. method [8] and expressed as the minimum haemorrhagic dose (MHD), which is the MHD of venom capable of producing a subcutaneous (s.c) haemorrhagic lesion in 2 h with a diameter of 10 mm. Serial sublethal doses (25, 50 and 100 micrograms (µg)·µL<sup>-1</sup>) of both Lmm venom or CMS-5 fraction dissolved in isotonic saline solution in a final volume of 0.1 mL were injected intradermally (i.d) in the abdominal region of 4 male NIH mice. The mice in the control group were injected with isotonic saline. After 2 h, the animals from both trials were sacrificed by cervical dislocation, the skin was dissected and the haemorrhagic area was measured at the inside skin.

## Coagulant activity

Coagulant activity of Lmm venom and its CMS-5 fraction was performed following the method of Salazar *et al.* [19]. One hundred microlitres (100 µL) of citrated plasma or 0.3 % fibrinogen solution in Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.4, was incubated in a tube for 3 min at 37°C. Then, 100 µL of the same buffer and 100 µL of thrombin (0.5 - 15 International Units (IU)·mL<sup>-1</sup>) or 100 µL of Lmm venom and CMS-5 fraction samples (0.1 - 1 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>) were supplemented. The solution was by hand mixed carefully in a 37°C water bath and the clotting time was verified.

## Fibrinolytic analysis

To assay the fibrinolytic activity of Lmm venom and its CMS-5 fraction was used the modified Bajwa *et al.* method [4]. Three hundred µL of fibrinogen and 12 µL thrombin solution was put into each well of a 24 wells plate. Then, it was delicately agitated. The plate was kept at room temperature until constituent solidified. Afterward, 10 µL (1 µg·µL<sup>-1</sup>) of Lmm venom and its CMS-5 fraction was prepared in sterile 0.85 % saline as carrier and positioned in the centre of the fibrin layer, at that time incubated for 24 h at 37°C. After the incubation time had passed, the diameter of the lysis area on the fibrin surface was established. Then, 700 µL of trichloroacetic acid 10 % were placed at each well to stop the reaction, decanting after 10 min. Fibrinolytic activity was stated as the diameter of the lysis area per microgram of venom (mm<sup>2</sup>·µg<sup>-1</sup>). *Bothrops colombiensis* venom was employed as a positive control and sterile 0.85 % saline as a negative control. The test was also carried out with CMS-5 fraction treated or untreated with ethylene di-amine tetra acetic acid (EDTA).

## Oedema-forming activity

Oedema-forming activity was quantified by a modification of Tan and Saifuddin method [25]. Concisely, groups of 4 mice were injected in the right hind pad with 0.5 µg of Lmm venom and CMS-5 fraction dissolved in 30 µL of sterile saline solution. Sterile saline solution was injected into the left footpad as a negative control. At different periods, animals were sacrificed by cervical dislocation and the hind limbs were removed and weighed. The Minimum Oedematising Dose (MED) was defined as the amount of venom that induces a 30 % increase in oedema, with respect to the control hind limb.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Concerning geographical distribution of Lmm snake, in FIG. 1 was shown the distribution (Turimiquire range) area of the Lmm snake specimens used in this work

The ophitoxemia caused by Lmm shows local and systemic signs comparable to those seen in bothropic envenomation, such as serious pain at the bite site that extend out to the limbs, with severe and abrupt progressive oedema. In the region nearby the bite: ecchymosis, bullae and necrosis were observed. The systemic area shows gastrointestinal expressions, which produces profuse salivation, abdominal cramping and bloody diarrhoea. Patients also present intense arterial hypotension, bradycardia with fainting or weakness [18].

In the former years, the snake venom research has concentrated on metalloproteases (SVMPs) by its possible medical use in the handling of haemostatic diseases [12]. Metalloproteases with

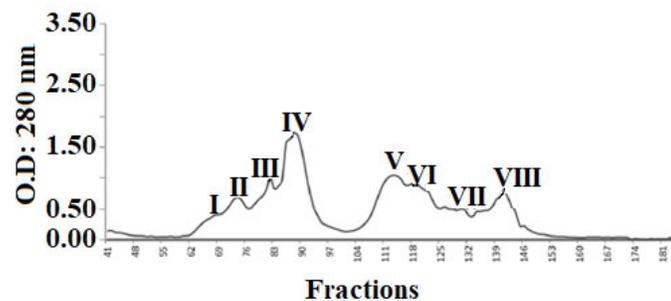


**FIGURE 1. Geographical distribution of LMM snake at Turimiquire range (Anzoategui, Monagas and Sucre States, Venezuela)**

fibrin(ogen)olytic action are effective for thrombosis usage since they drop plasma fibrinogen and break up fibrin coagules [19].

Limited performs describing haemostatic activities with Lmm venom has been carried out. Until now only few proteins have been purified from this snake venom, among them, a C-type lectin-like fraction (MC-1) with coagulant activity, like protein from *Lachesis muta stenophrys* venom and also a glycoprotein enzyme with thrombin-like activity of ~37 kDa molecular mass were also described [2, 3]. Sanchez *et al.* [21] isolated a proteinase of ~33 kDa with plasminogen-activating action from Lmm (bushmaster) snake venom. In this work, the total venom Lmm protein concentration displayed a concentration of 14.26 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>. The CMS-5 fraction presented a concentration of 0.49 mg·mL<sup>-1</sup>.

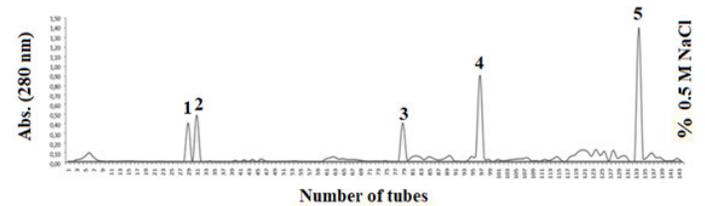
The venom fractionation was carried out by two chromatographic procedures, first a Sephacryl S-300 molecular exclusion chromatography, which the eluates processed in native conditions, displayed a profile characterised by 8 peaks or fractions obtained when reading at λ 280 nm, which were identified with numbers from I to VIII (FIG. 2).



**FIGURE 2. Molecular Exclusion Chromatography. Sequential purification steps of Lmm venom (50 mg) on Sephacryl-300 (S-300) that was equilibrated with 50mM ammonium acetate buffer, pH 6.9. Fraction IV revealed high fibrinolytic activity**

Procoagulant, fibrinolytic and haemorrhagic activities were tested in the fractions of this venom. From the 8 fractions gathered by size exclusion chromatography, strong fibrinolytic activity was identified in fraction FIV, which represented 48.7 % of the venom components.

Subsequently, a chromatography of cationic exchange, where the eluting peaks (1 to 5) tops were assayed for fibrinolytic activity. The peak F5 (CMS-5) showed high fibrinolytic activity (FIG. 3).

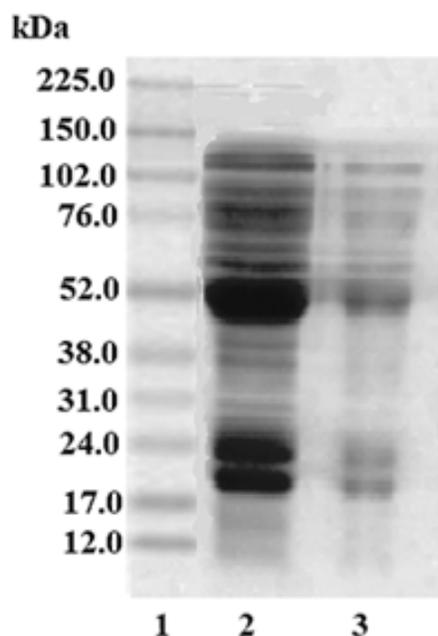


**FIGURE 3. Fractionation of LMM fraction IV venom by Cationic Exchange Column. Fraction IV (2 mg) was chromatographed on a Carboxi-methyl-Sepharose column cationic exchange column equilibrated with 50mM tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.0, at a flow rate of 1.0 mg·min<sup>-1</sup> at 4°C. After elution of unbound material, a linear NaCl gradient from 0 to 1 M (pH 9.0) was carried out. Fraction 5 (CMS-5) showed intense fibrinolytic activity**

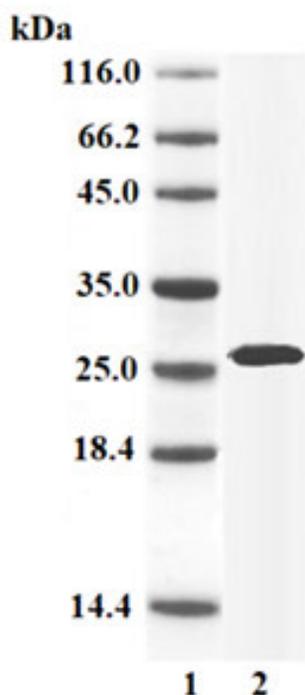
The Lmm crude venom molecular masses determined by sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) presented a band distribution, which included proteins of high, medium and low molecular masses. In FIG. 4, the SDS-PAGE profile of the total venom is shown with approximately 12 protein bands, with molecular masses between approximately 12 and 225 kDa. The profile of the FIV fraction obtained from molecular exclusion chromatography showed 8 major protein bands, with molecular masses between approximately 20 and 105 kDa. In the other hand, CMS-5 fraction (now called Yuyilyisin) was a very clean single ~26 kDa band by SDS-PAGE (8 - 20 %), which was obtained from cation exchange chromatography, under reduced conditions (FIG. 5).

According to its lethality, the Lmm venom used in this work was less toxic than bothropic (LD50: ~0.86 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight) [20] and crotalic (LD50: ~0.144 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight) [1] venoms. Lmm venom in the current work presented a LD50 of ~9.01 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight; however accidents caused by this snake are always highly serious, due to the amount of venom they manage to inject (roughly ~20 mg total) [18].

With reference to a haemorrhagic analysis, testing the minimum haemorrhagic dose (MHD), this venom presented 15.88 µg ± 6.25 µg·mouse<sup>-1</sup> (n = 5). While animals treated with NaCl at 0.85 %, the development of haemorrhagic lesion was not observed. Yuyilyisin showed 10.1 ± 1.4 µg·mouse<sup>-1</sup> (n = 5) (TABLE 1). Most of the metallo- and serine-proteinases present in snake venoms produce local haemorrhages by direct or indirect actions on blood vessel endothelium [12]. But, on the other hand, these proteases represent substantial tools for coagulation and thrombosis



**FIGURE 4.** SDS-page (8 - 20 %) of crude LMM venom. (1) Molecular mass markers (10 µl) (Bio-Rad, California, U.S.A). (2) Lmm crude venom. (3) Fraction IV. Stained with Coomassie blue



**FIGURE 5.** SDS-Page (12 %) of CMS-5 fraction obtained from the Cationic Exchange Carboxymethyl-Sepharose Chromatography Column. (1) Molecular mass markers. (2) CMS-5 ~26 kDa (now Yuyilysin) fraction

**TABLE I**  
**Biological and haemostatic activities of Lmm venom**

Activity	Component	
	Lmm venom	Yuyilysin fraction
LD50 (µg·mouse <sup>-1</sup> )	18.02	N.D
Activity Coagulant - Plasma (IU Th·µg <sup>-1</sup> )	23.0	75.0
Activity Coagulant - Fibrinogen (IU Th·µg <sup>-1</sup> )	17.0	88.0
MHD (µg·mouse <sup>-1</sup> )	15.9 ± 6.3	10.1 ± 1.4
MED (µg·mouse <sup>-1</sup> )	0.12 ± 0.03	0
Activity Fibrinolytic (mm)	42.0 ± 0.1	26.5 ± 1.2

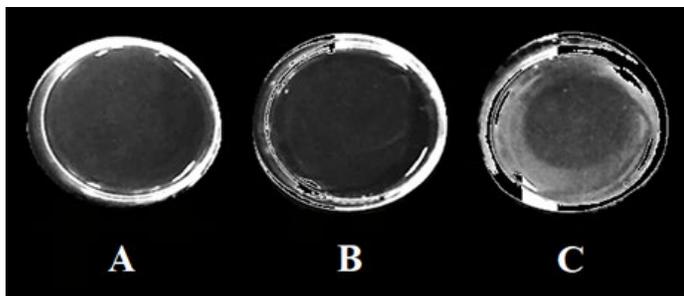
LD<sub>50</sub>: Lethal dose fifty; IU Th: International units of thrombin; MHD; minimum haemorrhagic dose; MED: Minimun oedematising dose

treatments and research of the mechanism implicated in circulatory system injury. This effective dose must be related with low molecular mass metalloproteases such as α and β (~22 kDa LHTa and ~23 kDa LHTb), proteases with potent haemorrhagic activity found in the crude venom of Lmm [16, 27]. In the assessment of the haemorrhagic lesions were very well perceived on the skin of treated mice. These damages augmented its strength in a dose-dependent manner. Haemorrhage is a common expression in human and animal victims following a bite by Lmm snake [18].

Concerning coagulant activity, the Lmm crude venom studied showed *in vitro* pro-coagulant effect, agreeing to the conditions of this work, with a dose-dependent association characterised by a reduction in the time required for induction of plasma coagulation by rising the dose of the venom tested. An activity on plasma of 23.0 IU Thrombin (Th·mg<sup>-1</sup> of Lmm crude venom was obtained. When using purified human fibrinogen as substrate, the Lmm crude venom presented an activity of 17.0 IU Th·mg<sup>-1</sup> (TABLE 1). Yuyilysin presented a pro-coagulant effect *in vitro*, with a dose-dependent relationship characterized by a reduction in the time necessary for induction of plasma coagulation. An activity on plasma of 75.0 IU Th·mg<sup>-1</sup> was achieved. When using purified human fibrinogen as substrate, the Yuyilysin revealed to be effective with an activity of 80.0 IU Th·mg<sup>-1</sup> (TABLE 1). As an interesting finding, the coagulant activity of Yuyilysin was higher in plasma and fibrinogen than crude venom, probably due to its higher activity when pure.

When the oedema-forming activity was assayed, the Lmm venom induced mild oedema after 30 min (23.3 ± 2.8 %). In contrast, Yuyilysin did not show perceptible oedema after 30 min (TABLE 1). The oedema activity induced by Lmm venom, presented a dependent relationship dose showing an increase in the percentage of oedema that was directly proportional to the venom dose evaluated. In some of treated animals was observed that the oedema extended further than the foot pad, involving the entire limb tested, an effect that was exhibited with a low dose, when compare with its respective control.

Apropos the fibrinolytic activity, was demonstrated that testing on plates using fibrin in the absence of plasminogen and expressed as specific activity ( $\text{mm}^2 \cdot \mu\text{g}^{-1}$ ), it was found that the venom of Lmm had a high fibrinolytic activity ( $42 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm}^2 \cdot \mu\text{g}^{-1}$ ). It was observed, within the lysis area a well-defined halo (data not shown). Yuyilysin displayed high fibrinolytic activity ( $26.5 \pm 1.2 \text{ mm}^2 \cdot \mu\text{g}^{-1}$ ). Negative control (isotonic saline) exhibited no activity, while the positive control (*B. colombiensis* venom) entirely lysed the plate (FIG.6).



**FIGURE 6. Fibrinolytic activity of Yuyilysin. It was determined on plaques using fibrin in the absence of plasminogen and expressed as specific activity ( $\text{mm}^2 \cdot \mu\text{g}^{-1}$ ). Yuyilysin showed high fibrinolytic activity ( $26.5 \pm 1.2 \text{ mm}^2 \cdot \mu\text{g}^{-1}$ ). A) Negative control (isotonic saline). B) Positive control (*Bothrops colombiensis* venom) (entirely lysed). C) Yuyilysin**

The Yuyilysin fibrinolytic activity was completely lost after treatment with ethylene di-amine tetra acetic acid (EDTA), which confirms its metalloprotease nature. The pattern of degradation of inter-crossed fibrin, had a very comparable behaviour. Fibrinolytic in fibrin plate activity was analogous in the presence and absence of plasminogen, which advises that these enzymes do not activate plasminogen. Yuyilysin fibrinolytic with low haemorrhagic activity must be explored as thrombolytic agent by thrombus dissolution or by preventing its formation. Enzymes with fibrinolytic competences break up fibrin mesh into fibrin degradation fragments. Limited studies in mice with inactivation of the central components of the fibrinolytic system have proven the physiological relevance of the system in these directions, advising participation of other proteolytic systems, mainly the matrix metalloprotease (MMP) system [11]. Several metalloprotease anticoagulants also show haemorrhagic or haemolytic activities [7].

The most of the fibrinolytic alternatives currently existing for therapeutically treatments acts via plasminogen activation. But, every one of these agents even now go through secondary side effects and significant deficiencies, including necessity of large therapeutic dose, little plasma half-life, restricted fibrin specificity, reocclusion and bleeding difficulties [17]. Therefore, it is essential to discovery other fibrinolytic enzymes [12] from the diverse natural world, comprising venomous snakes and/or plant fonts.

## CONCLUSIONS

At present, it has been exposed that the Lmm venom has *in vitro* procoagulant activity similar to bothropic venoms, The Lmm crude venom displayed haemorrhagic and anticoagulant activities, and

Yuyilysin, an enzyme categorized as a P-I metalloprotease, was recognised in this venom. This study describes the characterisation of one fibrinolytic Type I metalloprotease yuyilysin from the Lmm venom, which represent one of the first original fibrinolytic enzymes described in this venom.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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