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Abhinav Parashar, Avanthika Venkatachalam, Daniel Andrew Gideon, Kelath Murali Manoj

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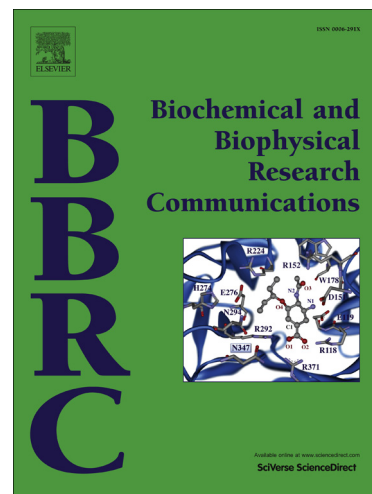
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Cyanide does more to inhibit heme enzymes, than merely serving as an active-site ligand

Abhinav Parashar[†], Avanthika Venkatachalam[‡], Daniel Andrew Gideon[†] &
Kelath Murali Manoj^{‡*}

^{‡*} To whom correspondence should be addressed:

Present Address: Professor & Principal Investigator, REDOx Lab,
PSG Institute of Advanced Studies,
Avinashi Road, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641004, India.
Ph: +91-422-434-4000, Ext. 4323; Fax: +91-422-2537833;
E-mail: satyamjayatu@yahoo.com

Permanent Address: Plot #66, 10th Cross Road,
Kattur (PO), Trichy, Tamil Nadu
India- 620019
E-mail: satyamjayatu@yahoo.com

[†] Center for Biomedical Research,
VIT University, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India-632014.

ABSTRACT: The toxicity of cyanide is hitherto attributed to its ability to bind to heme proteins' active site and thereby inhibit their activity. It is shown herein that the long-held interpretation is inadequate to explain several observations in heme-enzyme reaction systems. Generation of cyanide-based diffusible radicals in heme-enzyme reaction milieu could shunt electron transfers (by non-active site processes), and thus be detrimental to the efficiency of oxidative outcomes.

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