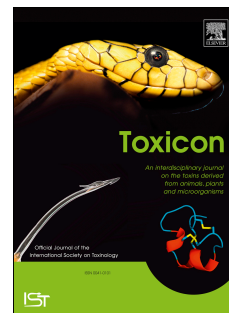


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Intraspecific venom variation in southern African scorpion species of the genera *Parabuthus*, *Uroplectes* and *Opisthophthalmus* (Scorpiones: Buthidae, Scorpionidae)

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Keywords: Scorpion, venom mass fingerprinting, intraspecific variation, hierarchical clustering

Highlights

- Venom samples of 60 individuals from different populations of four southern African scorpion species were analyzed
- Due to high intraspecific variation, venom fingerprinting by MALDI-TOF MS revealed only a few potentially species-specific components
- Conclusive information about population-specific diversity was obtained by hierarchical clustering analyses
- Hierarchical clustering enabled samples to be unambiguously identified to species

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