

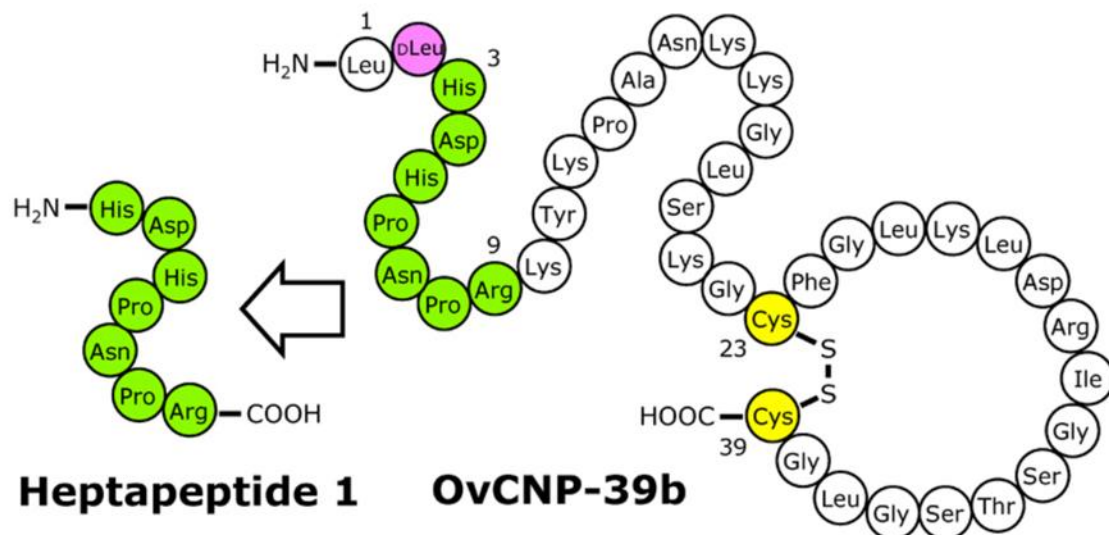
from Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry,

Platypus Is Cute But Far From Harmless - - - - -



Duckbill platypus

Ornithorhynchus anatinus (Shaw, 1799)



This laboratory identified unique neurotoxic peptides (including heptapeptide **1**) from duckbill platypus, an Australian unique mammal, and demonstrated the presence of kallikrein-like protease(s). The present findings may lead to the development of valuable vasoactive or pain-relief agents, and to a deeper understanding of the biological evolution of vertebrates in relation to toxic substances.

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