

E. C. G. CHANGES IN A GUINEAPIG INDUCED BY THE  
POISON OF THE BANDED KRAIT (*BUNGARUS FASCIATUS*)

SAMAR BANERJEE, NEELAM TANDON,  
&  
ANITA DUTTA A. K. HATI  
*School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.*

The banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) is a very poisonous snake, found in the villages of West Bengal. In the venom of *Bungarus* neurotoxin, hemolysin, cholinesterase and other enzymes have been identified. Very little is however, known about the effect of the venom on the heart.

Inoculation of krait venom in the guineapigs induced striking Electrocardiographic changes, which tend to suggest that cardiotoxin may be present in the venom of banded krait. Cardiotoxin is known to be present in Cobra venom (Reid 1968).

E. C. G. done after 15 minutes of intraperitoneal injection of the venom of banded krait in a guineapig, showed elevated ST in lead II and AVF, inverted T wave and depressed ST segment, in AVL, in addition to prolonged QT interval, dissociation of P wave and AV block, all being indicative of acute myocardial injury by the venom.

Further studies are essential to know whether these E. C. G. changes are a result of direct envenomization or are secondary due to carbon di-oxide retention and acidosis from respiratory failure.

REFERENCE

REID, H. A. 1968. Symptomatology, Pathology and treatment of snake-bite in India and Southeast Asia. *Venomous animals and their venoms*. Edited by Buchere, W., Buckley, E E and Deulojen, V. Academic Press, New York, London 623.