

Facts About the Poisonous Mammal - Loris

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Annotation: This article talks about poisonous animals in our nature, their number of species on earth, primary and secondary poisonous animal poisons. The poisonous properties of the loris, the only poisonous mammal on earth, and its effect on living organisms are described.

Keywords: poison, loris, organism, substance, tissue, mammal, species, animal.

Our motherland is very rich in animal world, their species are diverse and colorful, and some species are even dangerous for our life. Examples of these are poisonous animals. They have special glands that produce poisonous substances, and some species, being poisonous animals, do not have poisonous glands that produce poison. Some of their organs, tissue fluid, serous membranes and blood are poisonous. When such animals are eaten or swallowed unknowingly, they can cause adverse effects such as poisoning.

Usually, poisonous animals are divided into two large groups.

1. Primary poisonous animals or active poisonous animals;
2. Secondary venomous animals or inactive venomous animals.

Active poisonous animals include animals with special poisonous glands or cells; they produce a toxic substance - taxin and have a special wounding apparatus to inject toxins into other organisms. Usually, such poisonous animals use their poison to attack.

Inactive poisons include animals in which toxic products of metabolism accumulate in some organs or tissues. Poisoning occurs when animals belonging to this group are eaten.

There are other species of animals that do not have a wounding apparatus because they have poisonous glands. Such poisonous animals occupy an intermediate position. We can take some reptiles as an example. Members of this group use the poisonous substance as protection.

As a result of the evolution of the animal world, the toxicity of animals, especially the chemical structure of toxic substances, has undergone many changes. If the initial toxic substances and metabolites were very simple in terms of structure, the poisons that appeared in later periods began to have a complex structure. In the end, such toxic substances began to be formed that even the structure of the poison became "foreign" for the proteins of the individual organism. Because of this, the tissues, cells, and organs in the place where the poison fell were damaged and injured. It turned out that the more the poison differs from the protein structure of the body, the higher the degree of poisoning.

A poison is a substance that, in a certain amount, even in a very small amount, can cause a violation of the vital activity of the body, poisoning, diseases, the occurrence of pathological conditions and even death.

To date, more than 5,000 species of poisonous animals belonging to different types of the animal world are known to science:

- Simple animals-20;
- Spongy people - about 100;

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- Worms- about 72;
- Arthropods - about 4000;
- Molluscs - about 90;
- Ignatius - about 25;
- Fish - about 500;
- Amphibians - about 40;
- Reptiles - about 100 species.

At the same time, only a few species of poisonous animals belonging to the class of mammals have been identified on earth. Among them: the duckbill, the echidna, the ground squirrel, and only one species, the loris, is considered a poisonous animal.

Slow lorises, the only venomous primates in the world. They use poison in the fight for survival. Researchers observed venomous bites while studying the behavior of a species of this species, the Javan loris. Loris mainly uses poison to protect itself from predators and fight against parasites.

Slow lorises (*Nycticebus*) are small, but can fight even large predators. They are the only venomous primates in the world. The saliva of slow lorises and the fluid secreted from the secretion glands on their front legs are poisonous. For maximum efficiency, animals mix both liquids with each other.

The poison is formed when the animal licks the elbow, mixing the fluid of the brachial gland with saliva. Therefore, when a feeling of fear and danger arises, the loris raises its elbows. Its bite is poisonous (can cause anaphylactic shock and even death in humans). The special structure of the teeth helps to deliver the poison to the intended place: the front teeth of the loris are flattened, and the needle turns into a sharp comb. Loris venom is multi-component, its composition is species-specific and depends on the diet, which consists mainly of poisonous plants. The sap of some trees that slow lorises feed on is poisonous to humans, and lorises are immune to many toxins. Through food, toxic substances can be introduced into the animal's venom, causing benefit instead of harm. The main component of loris venom is a protein belonging to the secretoglobin family (q. Secretoglobin), which is known only to mammals and is the main component of many substances secreted by them.

The loris venom protein is very similar to Fel d 1, the feline secretoglobin that cats use to mark their territory. The same protein is the main cause of cat allergies in humans. The structure of secretoglobins allows them to bind to various molecules - this is a component of an odorous signal or a poison. Although the reason why the poison appears in the loris is not clear, the animal gets a lot of benefits from it. Lori can spray poison on her head, and her scent helps to attract a mate, scare away predators and kill parasites - for example, leeches, which are abundant during the rainy season. Perhaps the poison is used in internal conflicts and fights for females, and a poisonous bite can be fatal for an opponent. It is also assumed that the poison can be used to obtain food, but so far observations have not confirmed this.

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