

Table 1 N-terminal sequence of the main peaks eluted from the chromatographic steps. Assignment of the peaks to protein families by BLAST against a *Tityus* venom database

Peak	N-terminal sequence	Protein family (Uniprot ID)
6	KDKMKAGWERLTSQSEYACP...	Ts19 Frag-II (P86822)
	KIKEKIIIEAKDKMKAGWERL...	Ts19 Frag-I (P86822)
7	KKDGYPVEYDNCAYICWNYDNAY...	Ts3 (P01496)
	KDKMKAGWERLTSQSEYACPAID...	Ts19 Frag-II (P86822)
8	KIKEKIIIEAKDKMKAGWERLTSQSEYACPAIDKFCEDHCAAKKAVGKCDDFKNCIK	Ts19 Frag-I (P86822)
	KEGYAMDHEGCKFSCFIRPAGFCDGYCKTHLKASSGYCAWPACYCYGVDP...	Ts2 (P68410)
9	KIKEKIIIEAKDKMKAGWERLTSQSEYA...	Ts19 Frag-I (P86822)
	KKDGYPVEYDNCAYICWNYDNAYCDKL...	Ts3 (P01496)
	KEGYAMDHEGCKFSCFIRPAGFCDGYC...	Ts2 (P68410)
10	GREGYPADSKGCKITCFLTAAGYCNTCTL...	Ts4 (P45669)
11	GREGYPADSKGCKITCFLTA...	Ts4 (P45669)
12	GREGY...	Ts4 (P45669)
13	KLVALIPNDQLRSILKAVVHKVAKTQFGCPAYEGYCNDHCNDIERKDG...	Ts8 (P69940)
	GLREKHVQKLVALIPNDQLRSILKAVVHKVAKTQFGCPAYEGYCNDHC...	Ts8 propeptide (P69940)
	GREGYPADSKG...	Ts4 (P45669)
9.2	KIKEKIIIEAK...	Ts19 Frag-I (P86822)
	KEGYAMDHEG...	Ts2 (P68410)
9.3	KIKEKIIIEAKDKMKA...	Ts19 Frag-I (P86822)
	KEGYAMDHEGCKFSC...	Ts2 (P68410)

..., the primary sequence was not completely determined

whose precursor, known as Ts19, was determined through a transcriptomic study of the Ts venom gland [33, 34]. Posteriorly, two mature fragments of Ts19, named Ts19 Frag-I and Ts19 Frag-II, were deposited in the UniProt databank [28; Swiss-Prot: P86822]. The post-translational engineering of Ts19 toxin and its fragments, named post-splitting, has been recently suggested. Moreover, Ts19 Frag-II presents a specific and significant blocking effect on Kv1.2 [35].

The corresponding molecular mass of the 57 amino acid residues of oxidized monoisotopic toxin (S-S) Ts19 Frag-I (peak 9.3) sequenced through Edman degradation was calculated as 6,458 Da. The average molecular mass of the same peak was determined as 6,575 Da through MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry, linear mode. The difference between these masses corresponds to the amino acid residue (Leu or Ile) of the C-terminal region. Since the Ts19 Frag-I shares high identity with the β -KTx-like toxins TstKMK from *T. stigmurus* and TtrKIK from *T. trivittatus* and with Ts19, which presents a Leu in the C-terminal, we deduced that the amino acid residue to complete the entire sequence from Ts19 Frag-I is Leu. These 58 amino acid residues were submitted to ProtParam, a tool that predicted the pI 8.57. The composition of Ts19 Frag-I contains a high content of Lys residues, which explains the predicted basic isoelectric point.

A similar result was observed experimentally with Ts15 [36]. The theoretical mass of oxidized monoisotopic (S-S) Ts19 Frag-I (peak 9.3) calculated by the Sequence Editor was 6,571 Da, indicating the six cysteine residues that form three disulfide bonds, as observed in the β -KTx family [6]. Ts19 Frag-I was classified into the β -KTx class (subfamily) 2, since it shares high similarity with other β -KTxs belonging to this class (Fig. 5).

The Ts19 Frag-I presents nine additional amino acid residues in the N-terminal region when compared with Ts19 Frag-II. Interestingly, the N-terminal region of Ts19 Frag-I starts with the amino acid residues KIK. Other toxins that have KIK in their N-terminal region showed cytolytic, antimicrobial and hemolytic activities [7, 8]. The Ts19 Frag-II identified in the fractions VIIIA and VIIIB from Ts (the present work) was previously identified in the fractionation of Tsv on a C18 column and corresponds to 0.8 to 1.8 % of the total venom protein [37].

The peak 9.3 is constituted mainly (63.7 %) by Ts19 Frag-I (6,570.0 Da) and by peptides of 6,985.2 Da and 7,441.5 Da, whose N-terminal sequences corresponded to Ts2 and Ts3-KS, respectively. The respective theoretical molecular masses of oxidized monoisotopic (S-S) Ts2 and Ts3-KS calculated by the Sequence Editor are 6,985 Da and 7,442 Da [1], confirming that the proteins identified by Edman degradation are correct.