

Identification of a Novel Secreted Metabolite Cyclo(Phenylalanyl-Prolyl) from Batrachochytrium Dendrobatidis and its effect on Galleria Mellonella.

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1 **Title:** Identification of a novel secreted metabolite cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl) from
2 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and its effect on *Galleria mellonella*.

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20 **Abstract**

21 The fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, is the causative agent of chytridiomycosis
22 and a leading cause of global decline in amphibian populations. The first stages of
23 chytridiomycosis include: inflammation, hyperkeratosis, lethargy, loss of righting reflex, and
24 disruption of internal electrolyte levels leading to eventual death of the host. Previous work
25 indicates that *B. dendrobatidis* can produce immunomodulatory compounds and other secreted
26 molecules that regulate the growth of the fungus. In this study, filtrates of the fungus grown in
27 media and water were subjected to ultra performance liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
28 and analyzed using Compound Discoverer 3.0. Identification of cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl),
29 chitobiose, and S-adenosylmethionine were verified by their retention times and fragmentation
30 patterns from *B. dendrobatidis* supernatants. Previous studies have analyzed the effects of *B.*
31 *dendrobatidis* on amphibian models, *in vitro*, or in cell culture. We studied the effects of live *B.*
32 *dendrobatidis* cells, spent culture filtrates containing secreted metabolites, and
33 cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl) on wax moth larvae (*Galleria mellonella*). Concentrated filtrates
34 caused melanization within 24 hours, while live *B. dendrobatidis* caused melanization within 48
35 hours. Our results indicate *B. dendrobatidis* produces secreted metabolites previously
36 unreported. These findings provide another alternative for the use of a non-amphibian model
37 system to study pathogenicity traits in this fungus.

38 **Key Words**

39 Fungi, Secondary Metabolite, Wax Moth Larvae, Mass Spectrometry

40 **Introduction**

41 Amphibians, including frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, and caecilians, have been
42 declining at alarming rates since the 1970s [1]. A major contributor to global amphibian decline
43 in the 1990s was determined to be the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, and in
44 2010 a decline in salamanders was attributed to *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* [2-4].
45 *Batrachochytrium* species are currently known to infect between 50-55% of frogs, toads,
46 salamanders, and newts globally and 29% of caecilian species [5]. *Batrachochytrium*
47 *dendrobatidis* exists in two life stages, the motile zoospore and the sessile, reproductive
48 zoosporangium. The motile zoospore can produce a germ tube and enzymes to degrade
49 intracellular junctions, skin components, and amphibian anti-microbial peptides [6-8]. The
50 zoospore matures into a zoosporangium, which is known to produce metabolites to inhibit B and
51 T cell proliferation [9-11]. *In vitro* the zoosporangium also produces tryptophol, a quorum
52 sensing compound, that is associated with aggregated growth [12]. Infected amphibians have
53 symptoms of hyperkeratosis and slough skin to reduce infection loads. Severely infected
54 individuals present neurological symptoms including loss of righting reflex and succumb to
55 cardiac arrest [13, 14]. The reason for loss of righting reflex is unknown.

56 Fungi are known to produce primary metabolites, essential for growth and reproduction,
57 and secondary metabolites, compounds not essential for growth or reproduction, but instead used
58 to aid in survival. Secondary metabolites of fungal origin that play roles in colonization and
59 establishment of infections have been shown to contribute to cell death and neurological
60 symptoms, and possess anti-microbial, anti-nematode, and anti-protozoan activity [15-19]. In the
61 context of amphibian infections, we currently understand that such molecules may play roles in
62 quorum sensing, interference with immunological responses, and establishment in the host [9,
63 10, 12, 20]. Proteins responsible for secondary metabolite synthesis may be encoded in gene

64 clusters within the genome [21]. These metabolites have been identified through a variety of
65 methods, but most success has been accomplished through use of liquid chromatography in
66 tandem with mass spectrometry techniques [22]. *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* may possess
67 genes that encode proteins responsible for secondary metabolite production [23].

68 Parasitic fungi have been studied using a variety of “non-primary hosts.” Non-amphibian
69 model systems that have been used to study *B. dendrobatidis* infections are *Xenopus laevis*
70 amphibian skin and cell lines (i.e. splenocytes, leukocytes, and macrophages), nematodes, zebra
71 fish, and daphnia [9, 24-28]. Another model system used to study virulence mechanisms of fungi
72 is the wax moth larvae (*Galleria mellonella*) [29, 30]. Here we show, for the first time, that *B.*
73 *dendrobatidis* can produce cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl) (cPP) during *in vitro* cell culture and this
74 molecule can cause melanization in *G. mellonella* in a manner similar to live *B. dendrobatidis*.
75 The selection of *G. mellonella* over a previously identified non-amphibian host was to explore
76 the use of another animal model not previously utilized with *B. dendrobatidis*.

77 **Materials and Methods**

78 *Growth Conditions for Fungus*

79 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* VM1 isolate was grown in 50% H-broth with lactose
80 (HBL) (0.5% tryptone, 0.16% glucose, 2% lactose, w/v for all) with shaking in dark for 4 d until
81 cell density of the culture grew to 10^7 cells mL⁻¹ as quantified by hemacytometer for all
82 experiments. Media controls with HBL only and ~0.5 ml sterile 0.5 mm diameter glass beads
83 were used to mimic volume of growing *B. dendrobatidis*. Cultures were centrifuged at 1,865 x g
84 for 10 min. Cell culture pellets were washed twice with 2 mL HyClone Pure cell culture water.
85 To determine if cPP was a media artifact, samples of 50 HBL with glass beads and samples with

86 living *B. dendrobatidis* cells were heated at 60°C for 10 min. To confirm heat treating killed *B.*
87 *dendrobatidis* cells, 10 µl aliquots were grown on H-agar for 5 d. Heat-treated cells or beads
88 were washed as described above. Tubes were shaken (0.03-0.1 x g) on a rotary shaker in the dark
89 for 24 hrs. The cultures were centrifuged at 1,865 x g for 10 m and filtered with a 0.22 µm
90 polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) filter to remove cells/glass beads. All samples were treated in
91 triplicate.

92 *Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS)*

93 All conditions, *B. dendrobatidis* supernatant, cPP standards, and media and water
94 controls, had 5 µl analyzed by UPLC-MS/MS using Q Exactive™ HF Hybrid Quadrupole-
95 Orbitrap™ mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Standards of cyclo(L-Phe-
96 L-Pro), cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) were each dissolved
97 at a concentration of 1 mM in water (Sigma-Aldrich and Santa Cruz Biotechnology). The
98 chromatographic separation of *B. dendrobatidis* supernatant, cPP standards, and media and water
99 controls were performed on Vanquish UPLC system using an Acquity UPLC column (2.1 x 150
100 mm, HSS T3 C18, 1.8µm). A 15-minute gradient was used for separation using solvents A
101 (water, 0.1% formic acid (FA) and B (methanol, 0.1% FA). The gradient profile started with
102 0.5% solvent B, followed by an increase to 90% B in 9 minutes and then maintained at 90% B
103 for another 1.5 min and finally decreased to 99.5% A for the equilibration of the column. The
104 flow rate was kept at 0.45 µl min⁻¹ during the run and column temperature was set at 55°C
105 throughout the run.

106 Data-dependent acquisition mode with two scan events was employed for MS/MS
107 analysis. The first scan event was a full MS scan of 80–500 *m/z* at a mass resolution of 120,000.
108 In the second scan event, the five most intense ions detected in the first scan event were selected

109 to perform higher-energy C-trap dissociation (HCD) MS/MS with resolution of 15,000. An
110 elevated normalized collision energy (NCE) from 20-60% was applied to obtain the MS/MS
111 spectra. The dynamic exclusion was set to have repeat count of 2 and repeat duration of 6 s.

112 *Mass Spectrometry Data Analysis*

113 Metabolite structure search and predictions were done using Compound Discoverer 3.0
114 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) based on molecular weight, retention time, and fragmentation pattern
115 for each feature. Features from each data file were selected and aligned by retention time and
116 molecular weight (mass tolerance of 5 ppm, intensity tolerance of 30%, min. peak intensity of
117 100,000). Common adducts of each feature were removed. Compound names were assigned to
118 each feature with a similar match in the ChemSpider database or an elemental composition was
119 assigned with Predict Compositions processing node. To identify more unknown features,
120 mzLogic processing node compared MS2 data to the mzCloud database for similar
121 fragmentation. For those files with missing features, Fill Gap Nodes was applied to allow for
122 statistical analysis. The identified compounds were then mapped to KEGG, Metabolika, and
123 BioCyc Pathways.

124 Features were narrowed down to those that included ddMS2 data, had exact compound
125 names, matched to the mzCloud database, had a p-value <0.01, -2 < log₂fold > 2, and no repeat
126 compound names. Annotated feature intensities were normalized between *B. dendrobatidis*-
127 water and media-water samples and area under the curve for each feature was compared using t-
128 tests. Metaboanlaysst 5.1 software will be utilized for over-representation analysis and pathway
129 analysis modules [31].

130 *Wax Moth Larvae Bioassay*

131 The use of wax moth larvae, *Galleria mellonella*, is an accepted model to study microbial
132 infections [29, 30]. Larvae were purchased from Carolina Biological (Burlington, NC), allowed
133 to rest 24 hrs in empty Petri dishes, and then treated as described below. All worms were used
134 within 7 d of receipt. Supernatants or whole cells of *B. dendrobatis* at a concentration of 10^7
135 ml⁻¹ in 1X PBS were used in these experiments. Solutions of cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro) (Sigma-
136 Aldrich), cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) (Santa Cruz
137 Biotechnology) at a concentration of 1 mM were dissolved in water for these experiments. In all
138 cases larvae were injected into the left lower-proleg of each larva using sterile disposable
139 syringes and sterile 25.5-gauge needles in 20 μ l volumes into each of 10 worms in 3 independent
140 replicates. Larvae not injected and those injected with only 1X PBS and water were used as
141 controls. Worms were kept in sterile glass petri dishes and photographed every 24 hr for 48 hr
142 and observed for the occurrence of melanization at 24°C. After 2 d, worms were frozen for 4 d
143 and autoclaved. Melanization characteristics of each larva was scored on a scale of 0-4 as
144 previously described [32]. Photos of each group of larvae were scored blind based on
145 melanization levels (health index score) to reduce bias (Fig. 1). The melanization curve was
146 analyzed with a linear regression and two-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's analysis.

147 Thirty larvae were injected with *B. dendrobatis* re-suspended in 1X PBS and 1X PBS
148 and incubated at 24°C for 48 hrs. After incubation, the larvae were transferred to 4°C for 15 min
149 to slow down movements and hemolymph extracted for analysis. Hemolymph was extracted by
150 puncturing the lower abdomen with a sterile 25.5-gauge needle and outflowing hemolymph was
151 collected in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube. Hemolymph was centrifuged at 200 x g for 5 min at
152 4°C to remove hemocytes, and the supernatant was centrifuged at 20,000 x g for 15 min at 4°C to
153 remove cellular debris. The degree of melanization of hemocyte-free hemolymph from each set

154 of 10 injected larvae was measured as optical density (O.D.) at 600 nm. A Student's t-test was
155 performed to determine statistical significance.

156 **Results**

157 *Identification of unique secreted metabolites produced by Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis in*
158 *vitro*

159 There were 2,285 compounds identified in the supernatant of *B. dendrobatidis* incubated
160 in water compared to the media-water control. The list was narrowed by selecting compounds
161 that had MS2 data, had an exact compound name, had a match to the mzCloud database, p-value
162 <0.01, and -2 < log₂fold change >2. Any repeat compound names were removed. There were 113
163 remaining compounds after the selection criteria (Supplementary Table 1). Four novel
164 metabolites and previously known secreted metabolites from *B. dendrobatidis*, including
165 methylthioadenosine, kynurenine, tryptophan, and tryptophol were observed in this study and are
166 highlighted in Table 1. Using the enrichment metabolite set enrichment analysis (MSEA) module
167 in Metaboanalyst 5.1, 92 of 113 compound names matched under the KEGG, PubChem, and
168 Human Metabolome Database (HMDB). These 92 compounds were observed to be significantly
169 enriched for amino acids and peptides, purines, indoles, pyridinecarboxylic acids, imidazoles,
170 heterocyclic compounds, and pyridines (p<0.05, FDR <0.05) (Fig. 2). The pathway analysis
171 module in Metaboanalyst 5.1 was also utilized with the following parameters: enrichment
172 utilizing Fisher's Exact Test, topology utilizing the relative-betweenness centrality, and the
173 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* KEGG pathway. The metabolic pathways these 92 compounds most
174 affected were: beta-alanine, tryptophan, nicotinate/nicotinamide, vitamin B6, biotin, and lysine
175 degradation (impact factor>0.2) (Fig. 3).

176 We detected unique peaks with m/z of 245.12, 399.14, 424.17, and 236.14. Further
177 analysis with Compound Discoverer, identified the 245.12 peak as cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl)
178 which was significantly increased in area under the peak in the *B. dendrobatis*-water (*B.*
179 *dendrobatis* cultured in HBL for 4 d, washed in water, and further incubated in water for 24
180 hrs) versus water (glass beads cultured in HBL for 4 d, washed in water, and further incubated in
181 water for 24 hrs) (Log₂Fold Change = 2.97, P<0.000926). Standards of cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro),
182 cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) were compared by mass
183 spectrometry with those observed in the *B. dendrobatis* sample at a concentration of 1 mM.
184 The comparisons indicate that the smaller peak (5.4 min) is the cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro) or cyclo(D-
185 Phe-L-Pro) conformation, and the larger peak (5.6 min) is the cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro) or cyclo(D-
186 Phe-D-Pro) conformation (Fig. 4). The 236.12 peak showed a compound similar to isopropyl
187 aminoethylmethyl phosphonite (QL compound) or possesses a D-carnitine side chain following
188 analysis with Compound Discoverer 3.0. The fraction containing the 236.12 peak was collected
189 20 times with 20 µl injections and used for bioassays. The fraction containing the 424.16 peak
190 was identified as chitobiose and the 399.14 peak as S-adenosylmethionine.

191 *Melanization occurs in Galleria mellonella after injections with Batrachochytrium dendrobatis*
192 *cells and culture supernatants*

193 The health score index based on melanization of wax moth larvae was significantly
194 reduced when exposed to 10⁷ *B. dendrobatis* cells (cultured in modified H-Broth 4 d, washed,
195 and re-suspend in 1X PBS) after 48 hrs of exposure (Fig. 5a, P<0.01) [33]. Analysis of hemocyte
196 free hemolymph, showed significant melanization in the *B. dendrobatis*- injected larvae
197 compared to the 1X PBS injected larvae (Fig. 5b, P<0.0001). A significant reduction of health
198 score index was observed within 24 hrs after injection with concentrated water supernatant from

199 *B. dendrobatidis* (Fig. 6, P<0.0001). Use of pure cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and
200 cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) conformations in our wax moth larvae model significantly decreased the
201 health score index of the larvae within 48 hrs (Fig. 7, P<0.0001, P<0.0001, and P<0.01,
202 respectively). Injection of larvae with the fraction containing the 236 analyte (QL reagent or D-
203 carnitine containing molecule) resulted in no significant melanization (data not shown).

204 **Discussion**

205 Fungi are known to produce a broad range of primary and secondary metabolites [34].
206 The primary metabolites are required for growth [35]. Secondary metabolites are important for
207 pathogenesis, survival in the environment, and can regulate reproduction [36-38]. We identified
208 growth and immunomodulatory fungal metabolites produced by *B. dendrobatidis*. These
209 included the immunomodulatory compounds methylthioadenosine, tryptophan, and kynurenine
210 and the growth modulatory compound, tryptophol. A novel small cyclic dipeptide,
211 cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl), QL compound related to carnitine, S-adenosylmethionine, and
212 chitobiose were also identified. Identification of metabolites secreted by *B. dendrobatidis* could
213 help with the development of vaccine targets in the prevention of infection [39].

214 Small cyclic dipeptides are known to have a variety of functions in organisms. These
215 include anti-bacterial and anti-fungal activities, moderation of gene expression, cell growth and
216 apoptosis, interference of toxin production, altering auxin related gene activity, and quorum
217 sensing [40-47]. Cyclic dipeptides are capable of inhibiting calcium channels [48]. Calcium
218 channels are required for basic neurological responses, as calcium allows for the fusion of
219 neurotransmitter membrane packets to enter neurons. We postulate that with the calcium
220 channels inhibited during infection with *B. dendrobatidis*, the amphibian would no longer be
221 able to release neurotransmitters. Furthermore, D-amino acids such as the cPP molecules

222 identified in this study play a role in immune suppression and central nervous system health and
223 disease [49]. This finding may explain why infected amphibians often experience the loss of the
224 righting reflex.

225 The biosynthesis of cPP by non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPS) is well-
226 documented [50-53]. *Bacillus brevis* is known to produce tyrocidine, of which cPP is a
227 precursor molecule, through a NRPS (*TycA*)[54]. The NRPS amino acid sequence in *B. brevis*
228 was used as a probe for NRPS sequences in *B. dendrobatidis*. We found that *B. dendrobatidis*
229 encodes proteins with high similarity to the *B. brevis* non-ribosomal peptide synthetase (20
230 potential matches, e value <9E-06) (Table 2). While the cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro) conformation of
231 cPP is known to be produced by eukaryotes, we show *B. dendrobatidis* can potentially make all
232 four conformations of the cyclic dipeptide (Fig. 4). The cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-
233 Pro), and cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) conformations of cPP produced a significant decrease in the
234 health score index (significant increase in melanization of the larvae) in our wax moth larvae
235 model system. Prophenoloxidase, an enzyme that is activated during the innate immune response
236 of insects, causes melanization to occur [55, 56]. This enzyme level is directly linked to the
237 calcium concentrations in the hemolymph of the wax moth larvae. In high concentrations of
238 calcium, this enzyme slows the activation of the prophenoloxidase system and prevents
239 coagulation and healing to occur in the wax moth larvae [57, 58]. Our findings suggest that the
240 presence of the D-amino acid in cPP plays a role in the induction of an immune response in the
241 wax moth larvae, as evidenced by the production of melanization when the insects were exposed
242 to the cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) conformations.
243 Additionally, the conformations that contain the D-isomers may contribute to a loss of the
244 righting reflex seen in chytridiomycosis, since D-amino acids are largely found in

245 neurotransmitters and the melanization was not inhibited during infection indicating lower
246 calcium levels [59]. We interpret the above results to suggest that the cPP compound produced
247 by *B. dendrobatidis* may aid in the loss of righting reflex seen in amphibians by inhibiting
248 calcium channels and competing with receptors for neurotransmitters.

249 Since cPP is present in modified H-Broth, *B. dendrobatidis* and media-glass beads were
250 heat-killed prior to 24 hr water incubation. Samples were processed through mass spectrometry
251 and there was a significant increase in cPP in the *B. dendrobatidis*-water sample compared to
252 heat killed *B. dendrobatidis*, media-water, or heat-killed media-water (Table 3). Heat-killed *B.*
253 *dendrobatidis* did not significantly change +/- 1 log fold change compared to controls. These
254 additional experiments, in conjunction with *B. dendrobatidis*-water and pure cPP causing
255 melanization while media-water has a lack of melanization in the wax moth larvae, support our
256 contention that cPP is being produced by *B. dendrobatidis* and is not solely an artifact from the
257 media.

258 Our unknown compound with a mass of 235.12 shows high similarity to molecules
259 possessing a carnitine side chain. Carnitine in fungi is known to aid in the utilization of
260 alternative carbon sources and to promote growth [60]. This compound could be used in
261 conjunction with tryptophol to regulate growth. This compound also shows high similarity to
262 isopropyl aminoethylmethyl phosphonite (QL compound) and procainamide. Isopropyl
263 aminoethylmethyl phosphonite is a precursor molecule to a nerve agent known as VX (an
264 organophosphorus compound that is an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor) [61]. Procainamide is a
265 medication that is used to correct arrhythmias by blocking sodium channels on heart muscle [62].
266 The injection of the 235.12 compound into the wax moth larvae model system, did not show a
267 significant decrease in health score index.

268 S-adenosylmethionine is a co-factor molecule required for growth in all organisms
269 including fungi [63], and can be a precursor metabolite for the production of
270 methylthioadenosine and spermidine, which inhibit amphibian lymphocyte proliferation [20, 64].
271 Chitobiose is a type of N-glycan and is used in the production of chitin, which is found in the cell
272 wall of *B. dendrobatidis* zoosporangium. The production of these compounds and their
273 identification in *B. dendrobatidis* allows us to understand the basic biology of the fungus.

274 In addition to the identified novel compounds secreted by *B. dendrobatidis*, 99 more
275 compounds were identified. Of these 99 compounds, 92 were able to be assessed for their
276 impacts on compound class and metabolic pathways. A large portion of these metabolites were
277 enriched in amino acids and peptides, purines, indoles, pyridinecarboxylic acids, imidazole,
278 heterocyclic compounds, and pyridines. Amino acids and peptides are known to be important in
279 immunomodulatory regulation for *B. dendrobatidis*, as shown by tryptophan and cPP [10].
280 Purines and imidazole compounds are produced by fungi and have been shown to have antiviral,
281 antibacterial, analgesic, antipyretic, and anti-inflammatory properties [65]. Indole by-products,
282 such as tryptophan and kynurenone, are known to also be immunomodulatory [10].
283 Pyridinecarboxylic acids and heterocyclic compounds are known to be produced by *B.*
284 *dendrobatidis* and other fungi. For example, spermidine from *B. dendrobatidis* can inhibit B and
285 T cell proliferation, while tryptophol from the chytrid encourages cell aggregation through
286 quorum sensing [20, 66]. Other compounds linked in these pathways may be of importance to
287 understanding functions of other metabolites secreted by *B. dendrobatidis*. The top 5 metabolic
288 pathways most impacted by these 92 molecules are beta-alanine, tryptophan,
289 nicotinate/nicotinamide, vitamin B6, and biotin. The beta-alanine pathway is important for
290 fungal virulence because beta alanine is a precursor for polyamines (such as spermidine) and

291 could contribute to altering the immune response of amphibians [20, 67]. The
292 nicotinate/nicotinamide pathways are important in dimorphic fungi, such as *Botrytis cinerea* for
293 the formation of sclerotia and can be scavenged from the tryptophan pathway [68, 69].
294 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* could utilize this pathway for aiding in transition from the
295 zoospore to the zoosporangium stage. The tryptophan biosynthetic pathway is already known to
296 be important for production of immunomodulatory compounds from *B. dendrobatidis*. These
297 compounds include tryptophan, kynurenine, methylthioadenosine, and tryptophol [9, 70].
298 Vitamin biosynthesis, especially vitamin B mechanisms, could be potential antifungal targets
299 [71]. Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) could contribute to *B. dendrobatidis* fungal virulence by altering
300 iron homeostasis. In *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus nidulans*, knockouts of pyridoxine
301 genes resulted in reduced virulence compared to wild-type in murine pulmonary and systemic
302 models, and was linked to interference with iron homeostasis [72, 73]. Vitamin B7 (biotin) can
303 increase the production of germ tubes in *Candida albicans* [74]. When biotin genetic knock-outs
304 were created in *Histoplasma capsulatum*, no reduction in virulence was observed [75]. Future
305 analysis of vitamin B6 and B7 pathways in *B. dendrobatidis* could yield interesting results into
306 understanding more pathogenic traits of *B. dendrobatidis*.

307 *Galleria mellonella*, possesses a complex immune response in the form of anti-microbial
308 peptides, lysozyme, and phagocytic cells [76]. When *G. mellonella* is infected with pathogenic
309 fungi, similar responses to vertebrate immune responses are observed [77, 78]. The
310 transcriptome of *G. mellonella* is also well-documented and allows for the better understanding
311 of the immune responses in this organism when faced with infection [79]. When *G. mellonella* is
312 infected with an external agent, prophenoloxidase is up-regulated, intracellular calcium levels are
313 decreased, and melanization is observed [80]. We show that secretions of *B. dendrobatidis* cause

314 significant melanization in the wax moth larvae. Together with our observation that intact *B.*
315 *dendrobatidis* cells cause melanization and death in *G. mellonella*, we propose the establishment
316 of *G. mellonella* as a model organism for future studies of this pathogen.

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319 spectrometry work, and members of San Francisco Laboratory for comments and discussion.

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321
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325 *Authors Contribution*

326 AMS, MSF, MZM: Development of methodology, AMS, MZM: planning and executing the
327 experiments, AMS: data analysis, AMS: writing original manuscript.

328 **Compliance with Ethical Standards**

329 *Competing Interests*

330 The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

331 *Ethics approval*

332 This study did not require ethical approval.

333 *Informed Consent*

334 This study did not use human subjects or materials gathered from human subjects. No informed
335 consent was necessary.

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538 **Figure Captions**

539 **Fig 1** Visualization of the health index score to rank the level of melanization in wax moth
540 larvae. A score of 4 is no melanization with a score of 0 being complete melanization and death
541 of the larvae.

542 **Fig 2** Over-representation analysis utilizing Metaboanalyst 5.1 of 92 metabolites secreted from
543 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* from water-*B. dendrobatidis* as compared to water (N=3).
544 Metabolite chemical structures were categorized by main class of compound and based on fold
545 enrichment (number of hits/expected). * indicates those classes of compounds with enrichment
546 values p<0.05 and FDR <0.05

547 **Fig 3** Metabolite pathway analysis utilizing Metaboanalyst 5.1 of 92 metabolites secreted from
548 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* from water-*B. dendrobatidis* as compared to water.
549 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* KEGG pathway used a base for analysis and based on impact factor (#
550 metabolites from enrichment/centrality)

551 **Fig 4** Mass Spectrometry results of 245.12 m/z peak from a) *B. dendrobatidis* water, b) cyclo(L-
552 Phe-L-Pro), c) cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), d) cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and e) cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro)

553 **Fig 5** A) Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with *B.*
554 *dendrobatidis* in 1X PBS and 1X PBS over 48 hrs of observations N=10, ** P<0.01, 3 replicates,
555 and B) O.D. of hemocyte free hemolymph from larvae injected with *B. dendrobatidis* and 1X
556 PBS, N=10, 3 replicates, **** P<0.0001

557 **Fig 6** Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with *B.*
558 *dendrobatis* water 10X concentrated (BWC) and water control 10X (WC) over 48 hrs of
559 observations N=10, **** P<0.0001, 3 replicates

560 **Fig 7** Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with 1 mM
561 cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro) (L-L), cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro) (L-D), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro) (D-L), cyclo(D-Phe-
562 D-Pro) (D-D), and control water (Water) over 48 hrs of observation. N=10, **** P<0.0001,
563 **P<0.01, N=3

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Table 1 Identity of selected compounds secreted from water-*B. dendrobatis* as compared to water. Known compounds produced from *B. dendrobatis* verify results (*) and data showing the presence of unique compounds by water- *B. dendrobatis* (**) (N=3)

Compound Name	Molecular Weight	RT (min)	Log ₂ Fold	P-Value
Unknown (QL or Similar to D-Carnitine)**	235.1415	0.826	15.26	2.23E-06
S-Adenosylmethionine**	398.1365	0.631	13.96	1.61E-05
5'-S-Methyl-5'-thioadenosine*	297.0891	0.599	12.35	9.27E-05
Chitobiose, di-N-acetyl**	424.1685	0.813	11.52	1.79E-06
Tryptophol*	161.0839	5.299	8.21	9.46E-05
Cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl)**	244.1209	5.633	2.97	0.000926
DL-Tryptophan*	204.0897	3.312	2.88	0.039086
Cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl)**	244.1209	5.481	2.87	0.000346
Kynurenone*	208.0846	3.043	2.38	0.003395

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Table 2 Comparison of tyrocidine encoding genes in *Bacillus brevis* compared to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*) amino acid sequences to determine putative tyrocidine-like molecule-encoding genes using NCBI BLAST

Protein in <i>Bacillus brevis</i>	Encoded function	<i>Bd</i> match E-value	<i>Bd</i> Encoded function
TycA (WP_137029047.1)	Peptide Synthetase	2e-86	Peptide Synthetase
TycB (WP_137029049.1)	Peptide Synthetase	3e-95	Peptide Synthetase
TycC (WP_137029046.1)	Peptide Synthetase	6e-92	Peptide Synthetase
TycD (AAC45931.1)	ABC Transporter	9e-83	ABC Transporter
TycE (AAC45932.1)	ABC Transporter	3e-73	ABC Transporter
TycF (RAT94638.1)	Thioesterase	0.25	Ubiquitin-protein ligase

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Table 3 Peak area comparisons of compound m/z peak 245.12 identified as cyclo(phenylalanyl-prolyl) utilizing Compound Discoverer 3.0 software to calculate the log₂fold change differences between controls (Heated *B. dendrobatis*, Heated Media Water, and Media Water) and sample of interest (*B. dendrobatis* Water) and their respective p-values

Comparisons	Log ₂ Fold Change	P-Value
<i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water/ Heated <i>B. dendrobatis</i>	3.21	7.26E-06
<i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water / Media Water	1.82	0.00357
<i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water / Heated Media Water	4.27	7.48E-07
Heated <i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water/ Media Water	-1.39	0.003829
<i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water / Heated <i>B. dendrobatis</i> Water	1.06	0.011177

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Figures

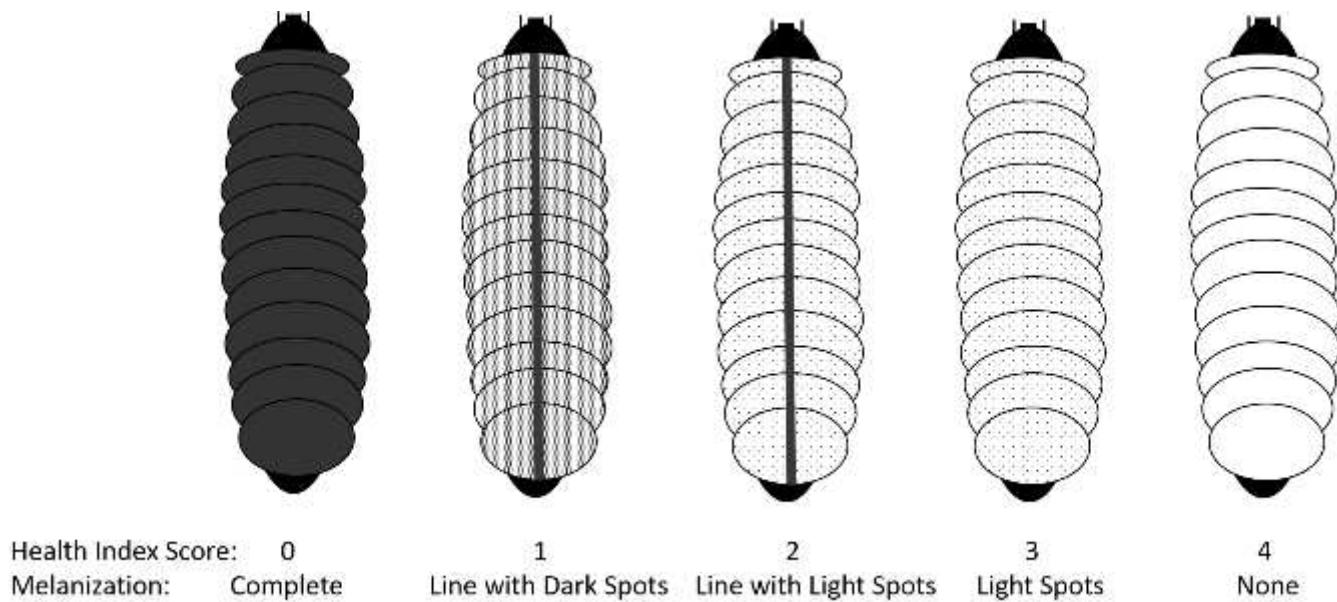


Figure 1

Visualization of the health index score to rank the level of melanization in wax moth larvae. A score of 4 is no melanization with a score of 0 being complete melanization and death of the larvae.

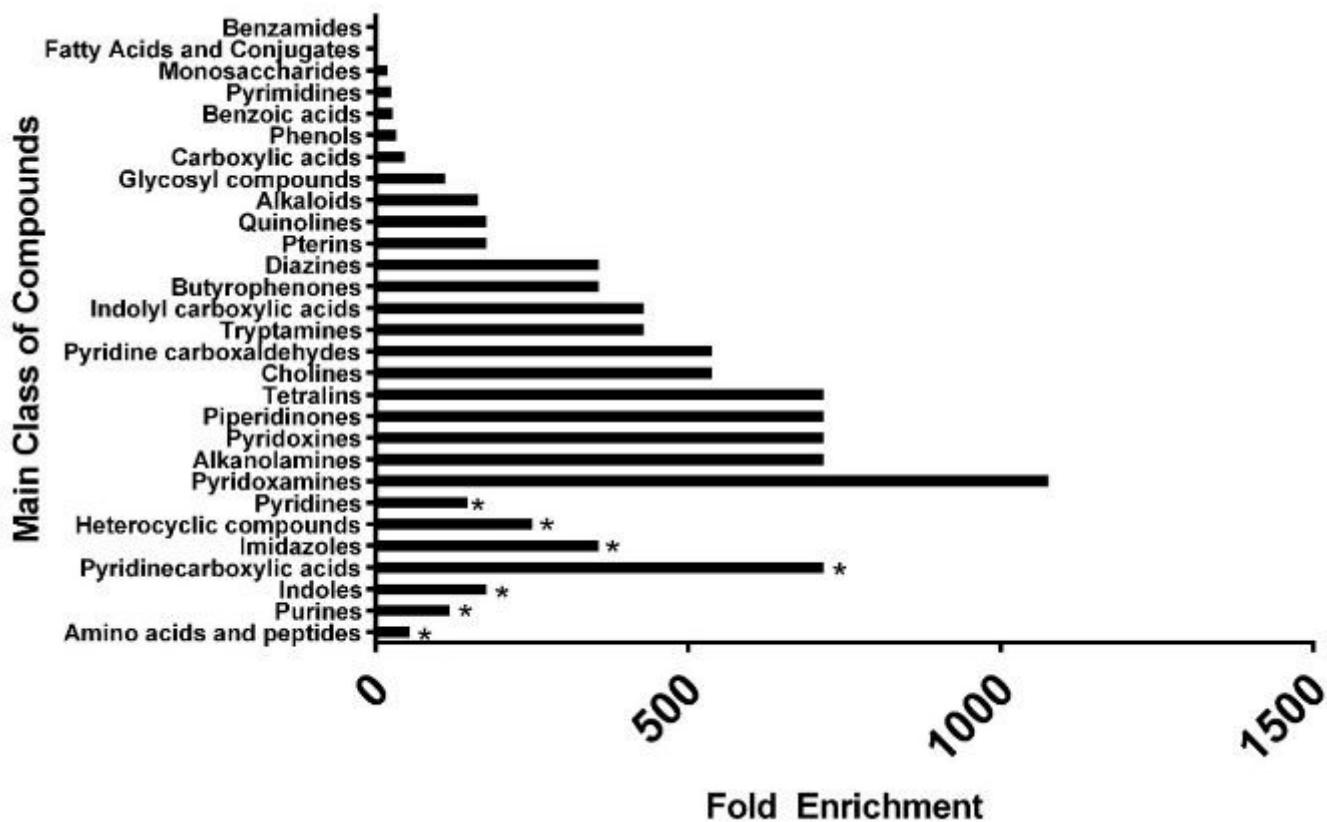


Figure 2

Over-representation analysis utilizing Metaboanalyst 5.1 of 92 metabolites secreted from Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis from water-B. dendrobatidis as compared to water (N=3). Metabolite chemical structures were categorized by main class of compound and based on fold enrichment (number of hits/expected). * indicates those classes of compounds with enrichment values $p < 0.05$ and FDR < 0.05

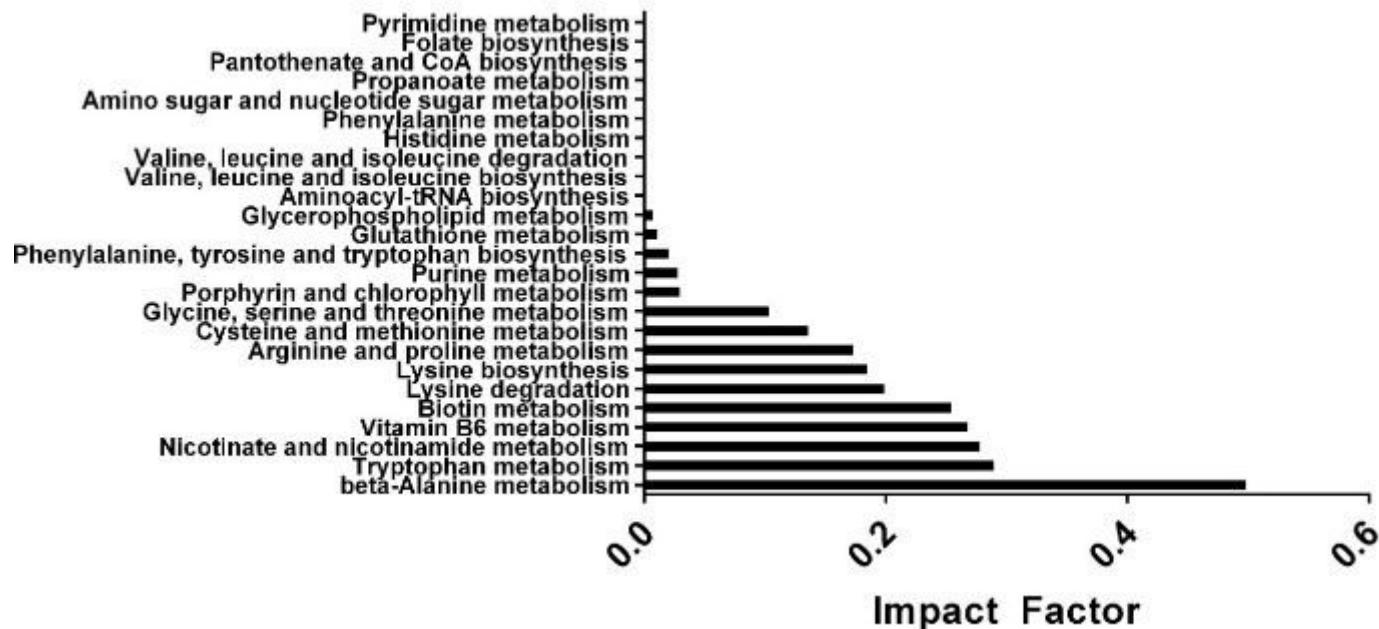


Figure 3

Metabolite pathway analysis utilizing Metaboanalyst 5.1 of 92 metabolites secreted from Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis from water-B. dendrobatidis as compared to water. Saccharomyces cerevisiae KEGG pathway used a base for analysis and based on impact factor (# metabolites from enrichment/centrality)

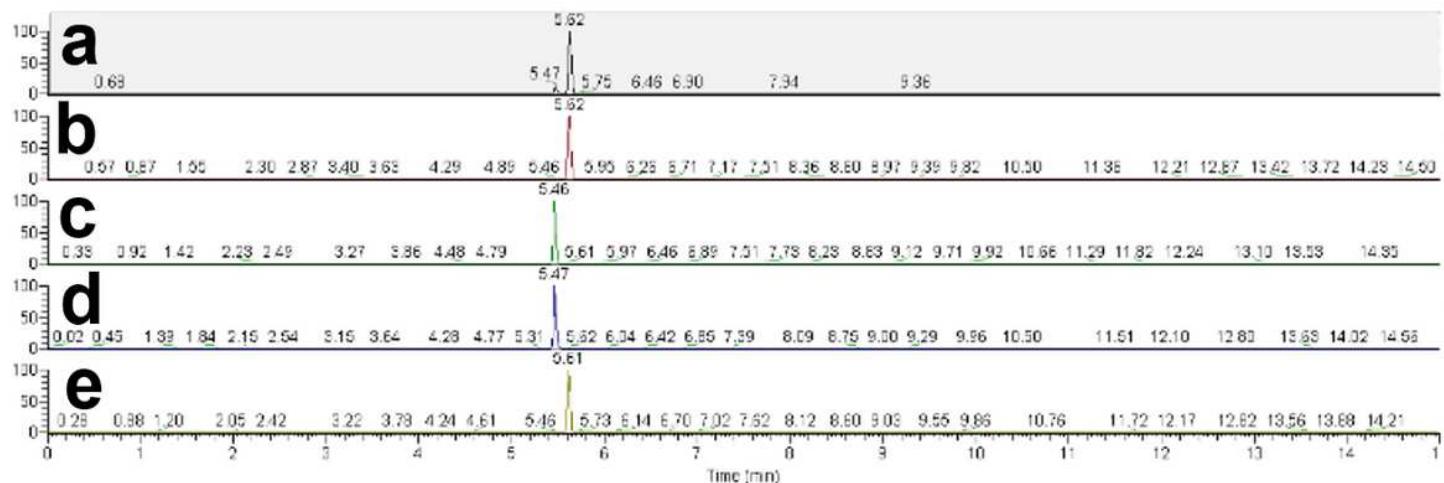


Figure 4

Mass Spectrometry results of 245.12 m/z peak from a) B. dendrobatis water, b) cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro), c) cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro), d) cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro), and e) cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro)

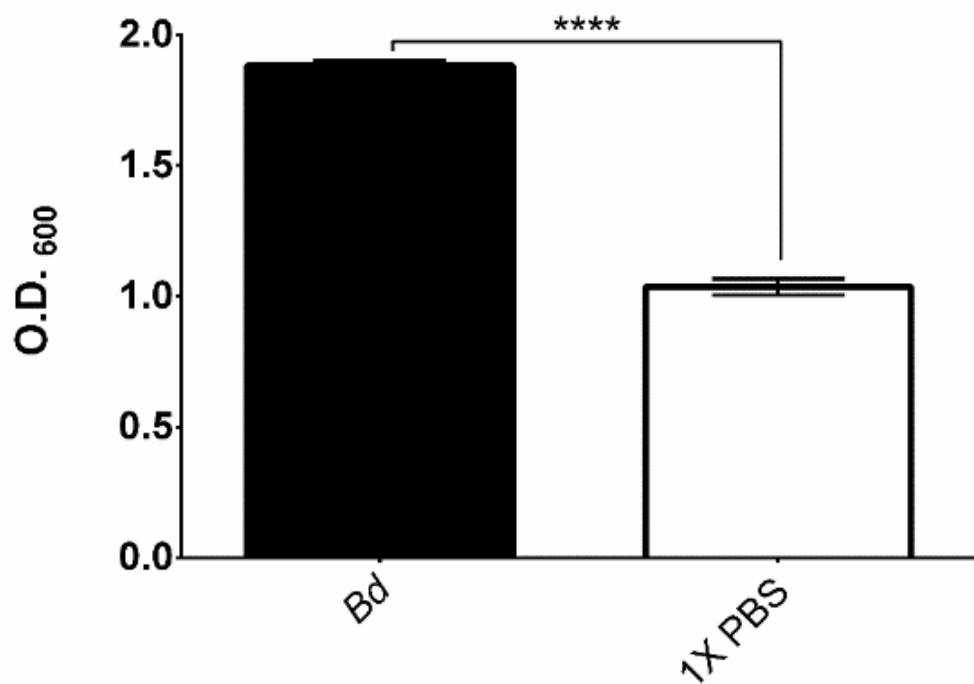
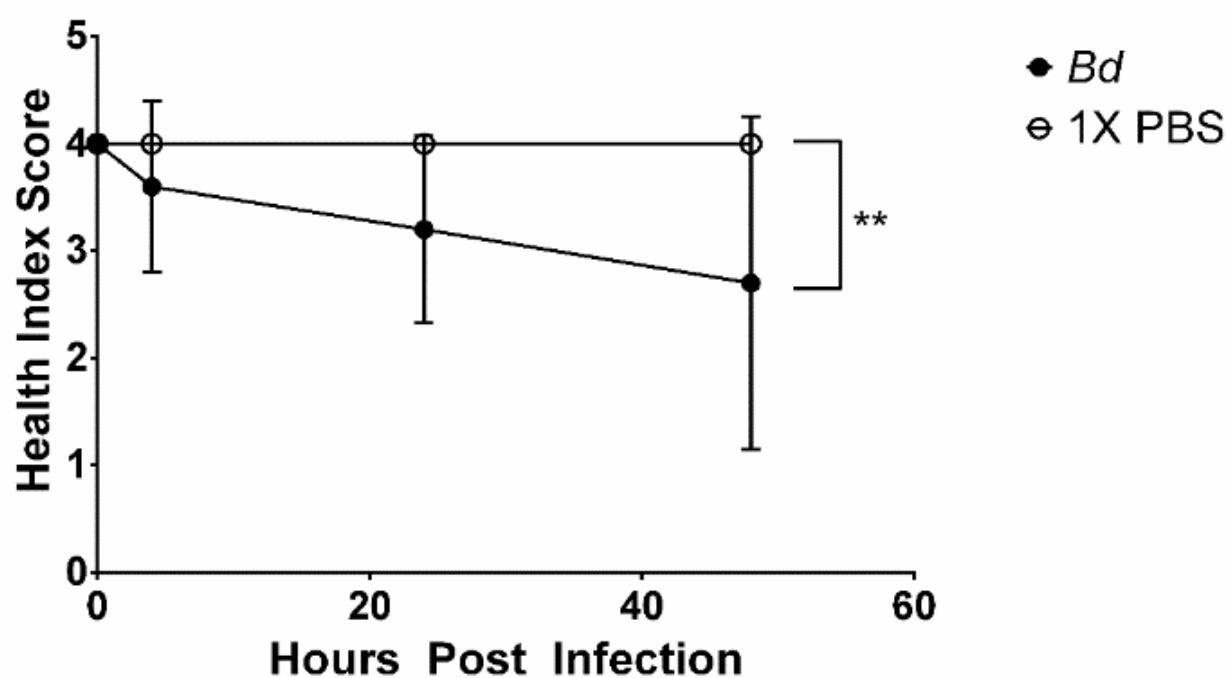


Figure 5

A) Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with *B. dendrobatis* in 1X PBS and 1X PBS over 48 hrs of observations N=10, ** P<0.01, 3 replicates, and B) O.D. of hemocyte free hemolymph from larvae injected with *B. dendrobatis* and 1X PBS, N=10, 3 replicates, **** P<0.0001

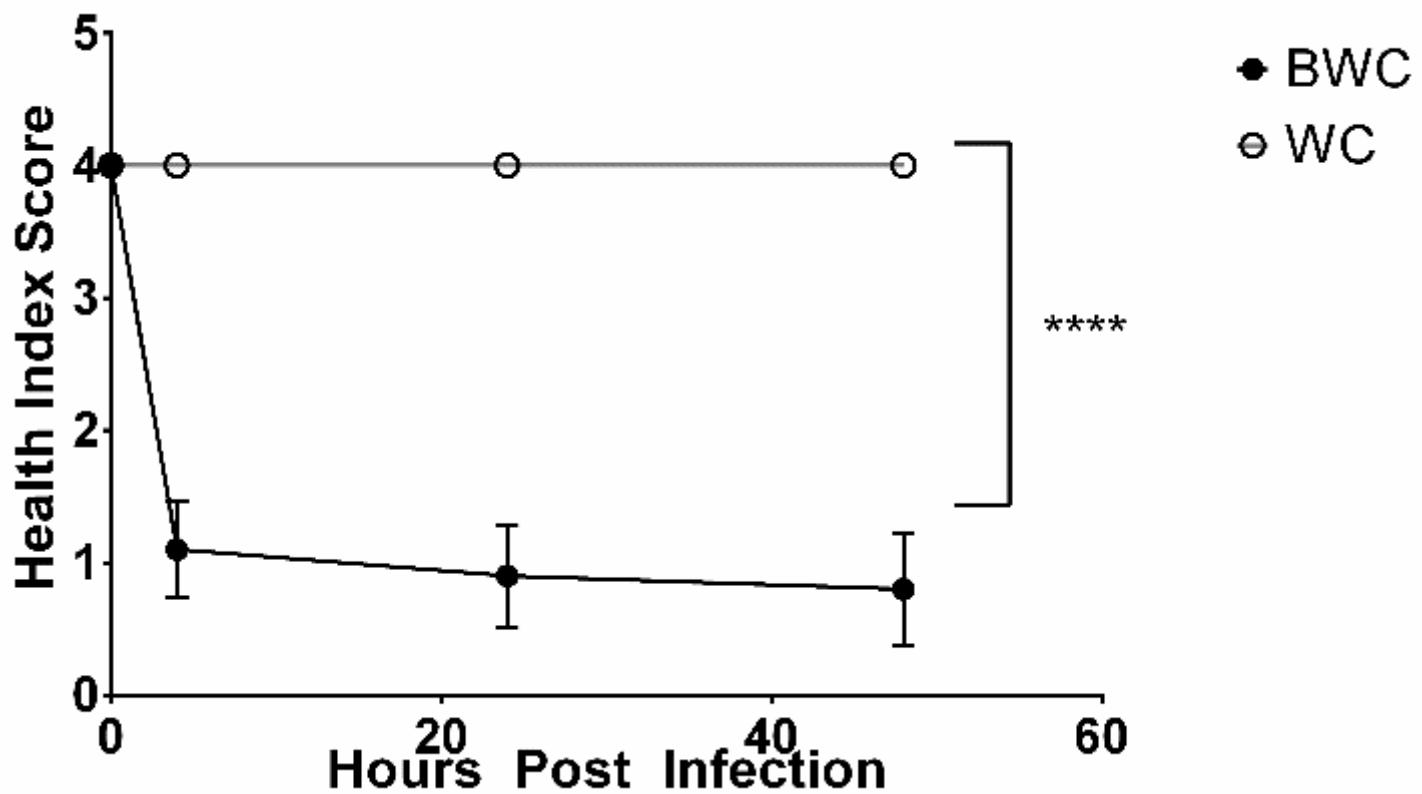


Figure 6

Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with *B. dendrobatidis* water 10X concentrated (BWC) and water control 10X (WC) over 48 hrs of observations N=10, **** P<0.0001, 3 replicates

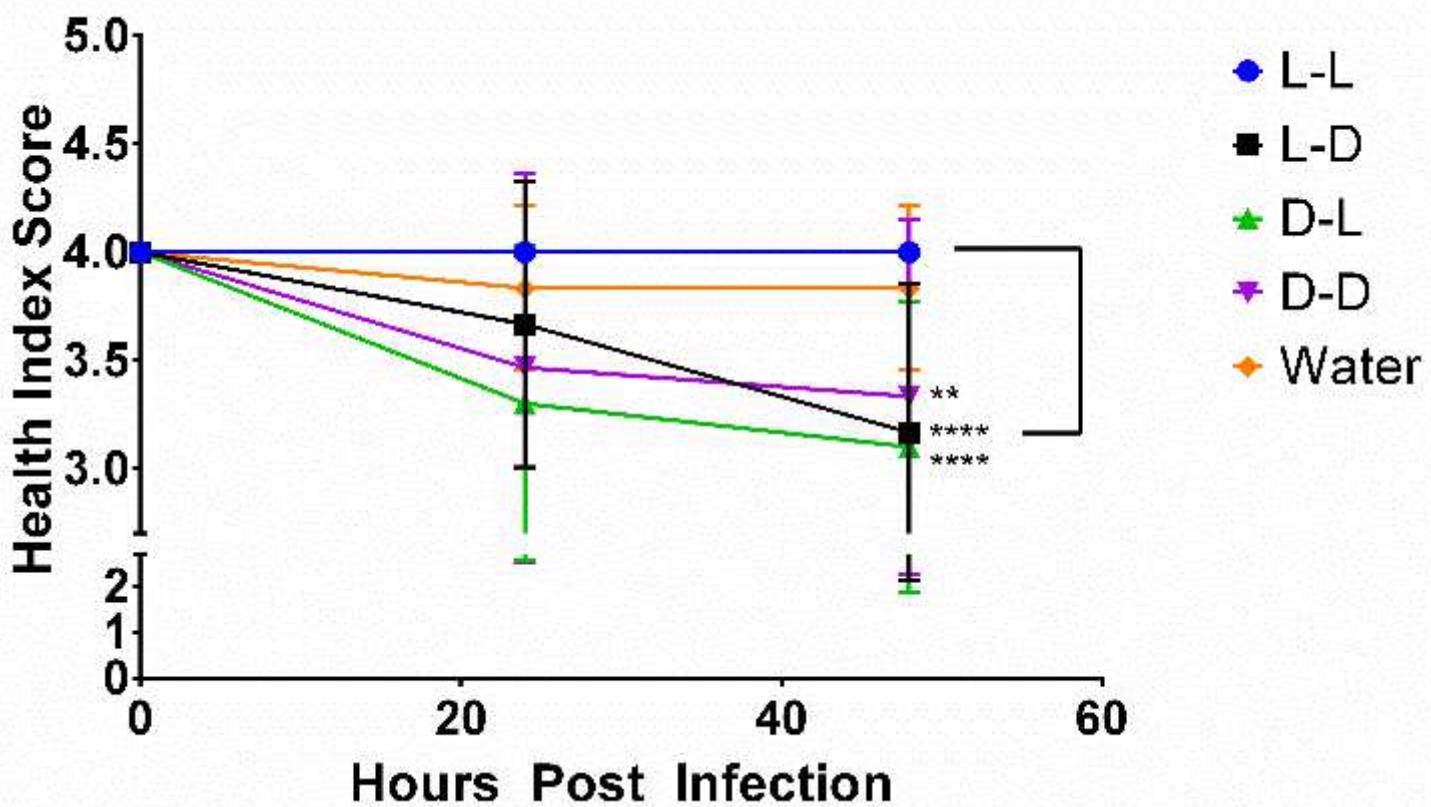


Figure 7

Health index score (degree of melanization) of wax moth larvae injected with 1 mM cyclo(L-Phe-L-Pro) (L-L), cyclo(L-Phe-D-Pro) (L-D), cyclo(D-Phe-L-Pro) (D-L), cyclo(D-Phe-D-Pro) (D-D), and control water (Water) over 48 hrs of observation. N=10, **** P<0.0001, **P<0.01, N=3

Supplementary Files

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