



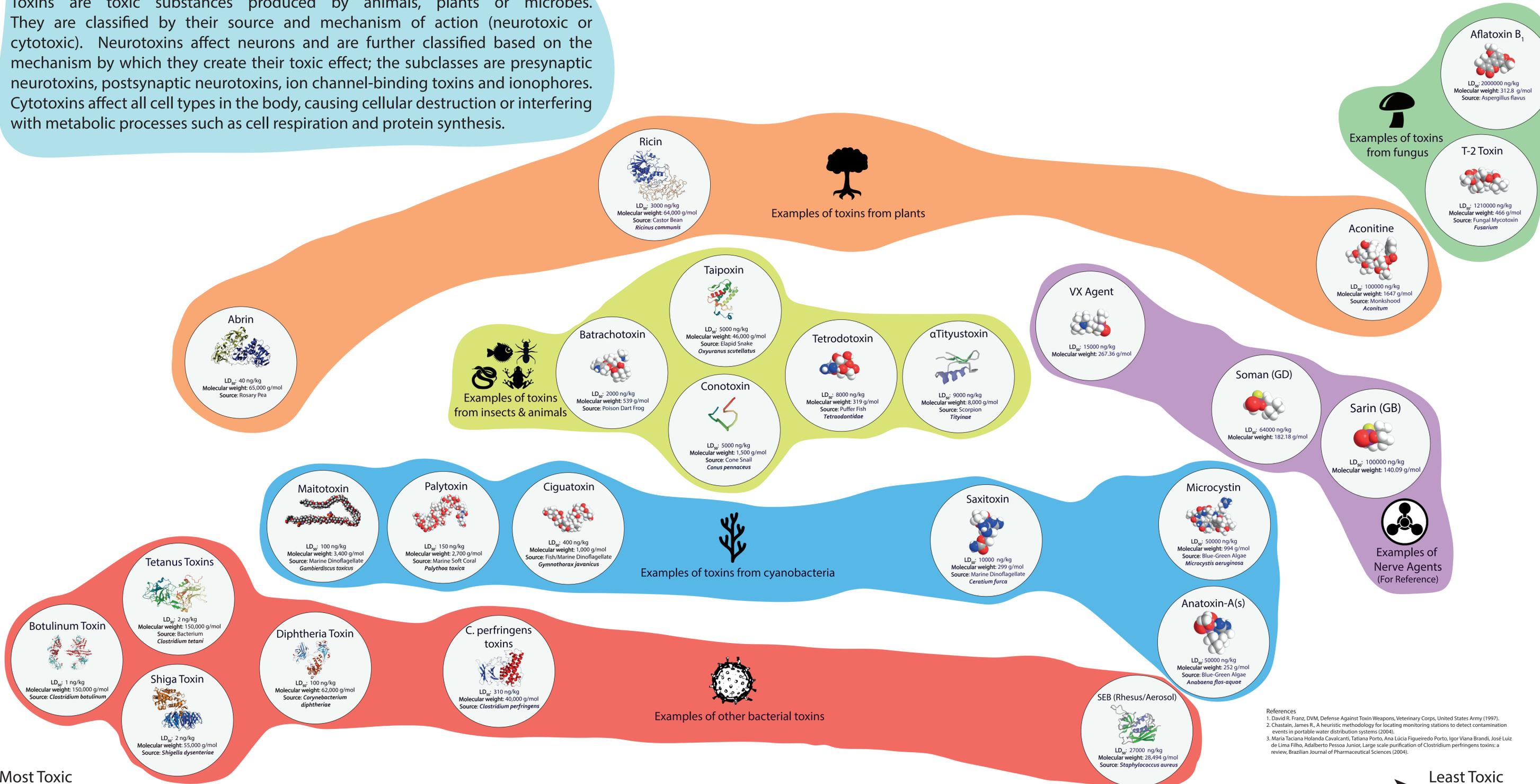
# ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Working Together for a World Free of Chemical Weapons

## Biological Toxins and their Relative Toxicity

### What are Toxins?

Toxins are toxic substances produced by animals, plants or microbes. They are classified by their source and mechanism of action (neurotoxic or cytotoxic). Neurotoxins affect neurons and are further classified based on the mechanism by which they create their toxic effect; the subclasses are presynaptic neurotoxins, postsynaptic neurotoxins, ion channel-binding toxins and ionophores. Cytotoxins affect all cell types in the body, causing cellular destruction or interfering with metabolic processes such as cell respiration and protein synthesis.



References  
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 3. Maria Taciana Holanda Cavalcanti, Tatiana Porto, Ana Lúcia Figueiredo Porto, Igor Viana Brandi, José Luiz de Lima Filho, Adalberto Pessoa Junior, Large scale purification of *Clostridium perfringens* toxins: a review, Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences (2004).