

A new species of the genus *Buthacus* Birula, 1908 from the United Arab Emirates

(Scorpiones: Buthidae)

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Abstract. Since the revision of the genus *Buthacus* Birula, 1908 given by LOURENÇO (2006), further new species have been recorded from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. One new species, collected in United Arab Emirates, is described here. It was collected in the region of Fujairah, in sandy desert with sparse bushes. It is associated with *Buthacus buettikeri* Hendrixson, 2006, recently described from Saudi Arabia, and *Buthacus tadmorensis* (Simon, 1892), described from Syria. The new species is distinguished by its smaller overall size, a smaller number of pectinial teeth, and an aculeus that is only slightly longer than vesicle.

Key words. Scorpion, *Buthacus*, United Arab Emirates, Middle East, new species.

Introduction

The taxonomic difficulties that stimulated the revision of the genus *Buthacus* Birula, 1908 have previously been explained, especially in the revision by LOURENÇO (2006). In attempting to clarify the status of various species in the genus, attention was focused mainly on the North African fauna (LOURENÇO 2006). Those distributed throughout most of the countries of the Middle East were largely disregarded in the initial stages of these studies, although at least some new species have been described from these regions (LOURENÇO 2004, LOURENÇO & QI 2006, HENDRIXSON 2006). However, the chaotic situation that still exists in the taxonomy of certain species requires that consideration be given to other species in the genus. One of these, from the United Arab Emirates, is described here as new. It is associated with *Buthacus buettikeri* Hendrixson, 2006, recently described from Saudi Arabia.

Taxonomy of some *Buthacus* species of the Arabian Peninsula

Buthacus tadmorensis (Simon) (= *Buthus tadmorensis* Simon, 1892) was described by SIMON (1892) from Tadmor (Palmyra) in Syria. This doubtful species has recently been revalidated (LOURENÇO 2006). In his publication, SIMON (1892) also made reference to *Buthacus leptochelys* (Ehrenberg) and *B. arenicola* (Simon). Examination of two specimens of *B. tadmorensis* from Palmyra in the collections of the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris (and possibly part of the type material of SIMON) shows clear morphological differences from *B. leptochelys*. In particular, the ventral carinae of metasomal segments II and III are very well developed. This feature was previously commented on by SIMON