

A new species of *Buthus* Leach, 1815 from Jordan

(Scorpiones: Buthidae)

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Abstract. Since the revision of the genus *Buthus* Leach about a decade ago, several new species have been recorded from North Africa. Only one new species, however, has been described from the Middle East. Another new species, collected in Jordan, is described here. It was collected in the region of Aqaba, in the Wadi Rum Desert. It is associated with *Buthus occitanus mardochei* var. *israelis* Shulov & Amitai, 1959, which is raised here to species level based on morphological and geographic grounds. The new species, *Buthus amri*, is distinguished by its smaller overall size, a smaller number of pectinal teeth, only 9-10 rows of granules on the chela fingers, and a very strong setation on pedipalps, metasomal segments and telson.

Key words. Scorpion, *Buthus*, new species, Jordan.

Introduction

In the past decade, following the preliminary revisions of the genus *Buthus* Leach, 1815 (LOURENÇO 2002, 2003), several new species have been described and in particular those associated with the '*Buthus occitanus*' complex. Almost all the new species have been found and described from the North African deserts or from sub-Saharan regions. The only exception is *Buthus yemenensis* Lourenço, 2008, described from Yemen (LOURENÇO 2008). During a field trip to Jordan, one of the junior authors (E. A. YAĞMUR) collected several *Buthus* specimens in the region of Aqaba, in the Wadi Rum Desert. Until now, only *Buthus occitanus mardochei* var. *israelis* Shulov & Amitai, 1959 has been reported from Israel and Sinai, but LEVY & AMITAI (1980) reported only two localities for this species, in the western areas of Sinai and far away from the Aqaba region. Detailed study of the specimens of *Buthus* collected in the region of Aqaba have revealed a distinct new species, which is described here.

Methods

Illustrations and measurements were made with the aid of a Wild M5 stereo-microscope with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometer. Measurements follow STAHNKE (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations follow VACHON (1974). Morphological terminology mostly follows VACHON (1952) and HJELLE (1990).