

Two new species of scorpions from the Arabian Peninsula belonging to the genera *Butheolus* Simon and *Compsobuthus* Vachon

(Scorpiones: Buthidae)

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Abstract. Two new species of scorpion belonging to the genera *Butheolus* Simon, 1882 and *Compsobuthus* Vachon, 1949 are described from the region of Khatan Al'Atash Ridge in the border area between the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Species of *Compsobuthus* have already been cited from UAE, but this is the first record of the genus *Butheolus* from this country.

Key words. Scorpion, Buthidae, *Butheolus*, *Compsobuthus*, taxonomy, United Arab Emirates, Oman.

Introduction

In recent years, several contributions have been made on the scorpion fauna of the Arabian Peninsula, and some of them deal directly with species of the genera *Butheolus* and *Compsobuthus* (VACHON 1980, SISSOM 1994, KOVÁŘIK 2004, HENDRIXSON 2006, LOURENÇO & QI 2006, LOWE 2001, 2009). Contributions to the scorpion fauna of the United Arab Emirates have been even more limited and only two species, *Buthacus williamsi* Lourenço & Leguin, 2009 and *Compsobuthus birulai* Lourenço, Leguin & Duhem, 2010 have been recently described (LOURENÇO & LEGUIN 2009, LOURENÇO et al. 2010). At present, two new species belonging to the genera *Butheolus* and *Compsobuthus* are described from the region of Khatan Al'Atash Ridge in U.A.E./Oman. Other species of *Compsobuthus* have already been cited or described from U.A.E., but this is the first record for the genus *Butheolus* from this country. Most historical aspects about the creation and composition of these two genera have been the subject of discussion in previous papers (e.g. LOURENÇO & QI 2006, LOURENÇO et al. 2009, 2010), and consequently we will not return to this topic in the present note.

Methods

Illustrations and measurements were produced 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) and morphological terminology mostly follows VACHON (1952) and HJELLE (1990).