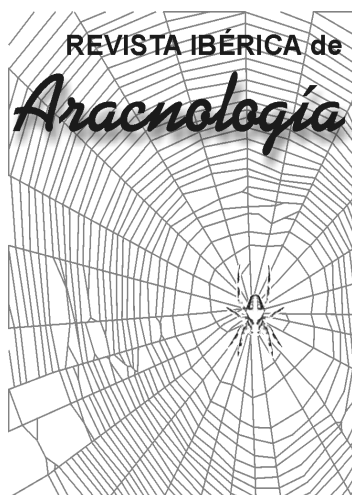




NOTA:

First record of *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Koch, 1839) from western Turkey (Scorpiones: Buthidae)

Rolando Teruel

Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas
y Biodiversidad (BIOECO)
Museo de Historia Natural
"Tomás Romay";
José A. Saco # 601, esquina a
Barnada;
Santiago de Cuba 90100. Cuba

Revista Ibérica de Aracnología
ISSN: 1576 - 9518.
Dep. Legal: Z-2656-2000.
Vol. 5, 31-VII-2002
Sección: Artículos y Notas.
Pp: 75–76.

Edita:

Grupo Ibérico de Aracnología (GIA)

Grupo de trabajo en Aracnología
de la Sociedad Entomológica
Aragonesa (SEA)
Avda. Radio Juventud, 37
50012 Zaragoza (ESPAÑA)
Tef. 976 324415
Fax. 976 535697
C-elect.: amelic@telefonica.net
Director: A. Melic

Información sobre suscripción,
índices, resúmenes de artículos *on line*,
normas de publicación, etc. en:

Página web GIA:
<http://entomologia.rediris.es/gia>

Página web SEA:
<http://entomologia.rediris.es/sea>

NOTA:

FIRST RECORD OF *MESOBUTHUS EUPEUS* (KOCH, 1839) FROM WESTERN TURKEY (SCORPIONES: BUTHIDAE)

Rolando Teruel

Abstract

The buthid scorpion *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Koch, 1839) is herein recorded for the first time from Akhisar, extreme western Turkey, where it lives sympatrically with *Mesobuthus gibbosus* (Brullé, 1832).

Key words: Scorpiones, Buthidae, new record, Turkey.

Primer registro de *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Koch, 1839) para Turquía occidental (Scorpiones: Buthidae)

Resumen

El escorpión bútido *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Koch, 1839) es registrado por primera vez para Akhisar, extremo occidental de Turquía, donde vive simpátricamente con *Mesobuthus gibbosus* (Brullé, 1832).

Palabras claves: Scorpiones, Buthidae, nuevo registro, Turquía.

The scorpion *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Koch, 1839) is one of the most naturally widespread members of Buthidae: it occurs in eastern Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, southern Russia (Astrakhan region), northern Syria, eastern Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, southern Mongolia and northern China (Birula, 1917; Farzanpay, 1986; Vachon & Kinzelbach, 1987; Fet, 1989; Kovařík, 1998; Fet *et al.*, 2000; Gromov, 2001). As it can be expected, such extensive distribution is related with an intensive morphologic differentiation, with 23 subspecies currently recognized as valid (Fet *et al.*, 2000). In Turkey, all previously known records for this scorpion are located in the eastern half of Anatolia, with the westernmost published records in Niğde province, a hypothetical boundary *M. eupeus* was supposed not to cross westward (Karataş & Karataş, 2001).

Recently, I received an adult male *M. eupeus* collected in Akhisar (38°55'27"N - 27°50'09"E), Manisa province, western Turkey. It was captured together with one adult male, one adult female and one juvenile *Mesobuthus gibbosus* (Brullé, 1832); both species had already been found living sympatrically in central Turkey (Karataş & Karataş, 2001). The examined specimen of *M. eupeus* (fig. 1, 2) is an adult as it shows all sexual secondary characters typical of this species well developed (pedipalp chelae relatively inflate and wider than patella, fingers with strong basal lobe and notch combination) and measured 38 mm in total length; Karataş & Karataş (2001) recorded 31.8–39.7 mm in five adult males from central Turkey. In color pattern it resembles very closely the specimens of *M. gibbosus* collected with it (body light yellowish brown with a pattern of blackish spots on the prosoma and mesosoma arranged into five longitudinal rows, pedipalps and metasoma with vestigial blackish spots, metasoma with ventral submedian and ventrolateral keels underlined with blackish pigment), but it is easily recognizable by the following features: **1)** metasomal segments II–IV much more robust, with eight keels, **2)** pedipalp patella dorsally smooth, **3)** pedipalp chelae robust, with short fingers, and **4)** telson subglobose, with dorsal surface flat. In adult male *M. gibbosus* the metasomal segments II–IV are slender and have 10 keels, the dorsal surface of the pedipalp patella is finely granulose, the pedipalp chelae are slender, with very long fingers and the telson is oval elongate with a deep oval dorsobasal depression. Nevertheless, when compared with other adult males of the same species from eastern Turkey (Van province), the specimen from Akhisar shows an overall lighter coloration and more slender pedipalp chelae; I regard this differences to reflect merely interpopulational variations.

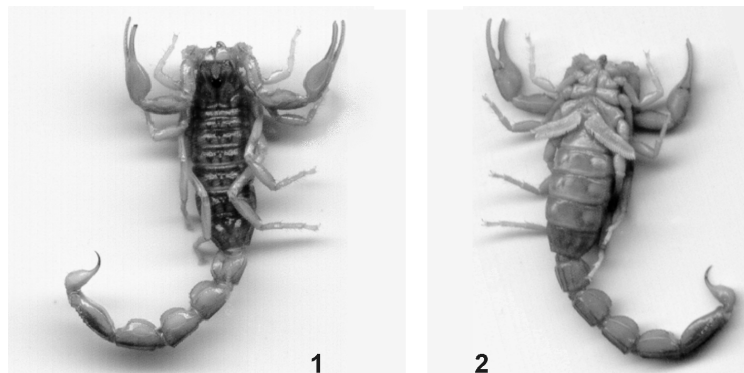


Fig. 1. Adult male *M. eupeus* from Akhisar, western Turkey; dorsal view.

Fig. 1. Macho adulto de *M. eupeus* de Akhisar, Turquía occidental; vista dorsal.

Fig. 2. Adult male *M. eupeus* from Akhisar, western Turkey; ventral view.

Fig. 2. Macho adulto de *M. eupeus* de Akhisar, Turquía occidental; vista ventral.

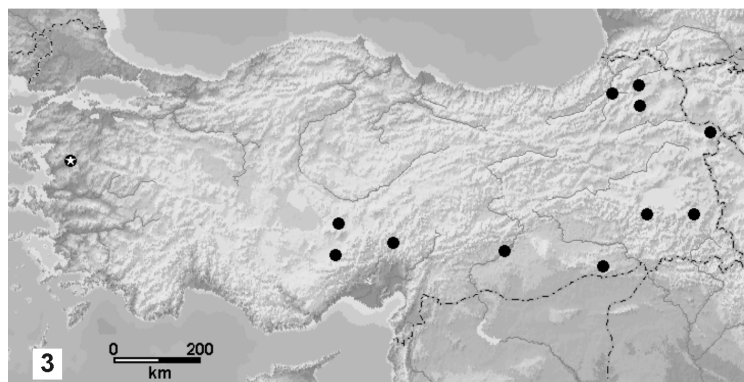


Fig. 3. New locality record for *M. eupeus* (★) and records previously known (●) for this taxon in Turkey.

Fig. 3. Nueva localidad para *M. eupeus* (★) y las localidades más próximas previamente conocidas (●) para este taxon en Turquía.

The new collecting site is located 67.5 km inland from the Aegean coast (fig. 3) and lies more than 600 km away from the closest previous record of *M. eupeus* in Niğde province; thus, the present record significantly extends the range of this species westward.

The examined specimens of *M. eupeus* from Turkey are deposited in the author's personal collection (RTO), under the catalogue numbers **Sco-0083** (adult male from Akhisar) and **Sco-0084** (two adult males from Van), respectively.

Acknowledgements

During many years, friends and colleagues have provided me with scorpion specimens and literature through gifts and exchanges, specially František Kovařík (Prague, Czech Republic), Jan-Peter Ruddloff (Roßlau, Germany), Jan Ove Rein (Trondheim, Norway) and Luis F. de Armas (Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, Havana, Cuba); I sincerely thank all of them.

References

- BIRULA, A. 1917. Arthrogastric arachnids of Caucasia. Part I: Scorpionida. *Ann. Caucasian Mus.* ser. A, **5**: 170 pp (English translation: Israel Program for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem, 1964).
- FARZANPAY, R. 1986. *Mesobuthus eupeus*, an indigenous scorpion form Iran. Origin and its geographical distribution. *Actas X Congr. Aracnol.*, Jaca, España, **1**: 333-335.
- FET, V. 1989. A catalogue of scorpions (Chelicerata: Scorpiones) of the USSR. *Riv. Mus. Civ. Sc. Nat. "E. Caffi"*, Bergamo, **13**: 73-171.
- FET, V., W. D. SISSOM, G. LOWE & M. E. BRAUNWALDER 2000. *Catalog of the scorpions of the world (1758-1998)*. The New York Entomological Society, New York, 690 pp.
- GROMOV, A. V. 2001. The northern boundary of scorpions in Central Asia. 301-306. In: V. FET & P. A. SELDEN (eds.). *Scorpions 2001. In Memoriam Gary A. Polis*. British Arachnological Society, Burnham Beeches, Bucks, XI + 404 pp.
- KARATAŞ, A. & A. KARATAŞ 2001. First record of *Mesobuthus eupeus* (C. L. Koch, 1839) from central Anatolia (Scorpiones: Buthidae). 297-299. In: V. FET & P. A. SELDEN (eds.). *Scorpions 2001. In Memoriam Gary A. Polis*. British Arachnological Society, Burnham Beeches, Bucks, XI + 404 pp.
- KOVAŘÍK, F. 1998. *Štiř (Scorpions)*. Madagaskar, Jihlava, 175 pp (in Czech).
- VACHON, M. & R. KINZELBACH 1987. On the taxonomy and distribution of the scorpions of the Middle East. *Proc. Symp. Fauna and Zoogeography of the Middle East* (Krupp, Schneider & Kinzelbach eds.), ser. A, **28**: 91-103.