

Notes on *Tityus confluens* Borelli, 1899 (Scorpiones: Buthidae) in Brazil

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Abstract

Records for *Tityus confluens* from nine localities in three Brazilian States are given. Although showing a wide geographic distribution in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil, the species is infrequently sampled. *Tityus confluens* normally inhabits dry environments, Chaco in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay, and Cerrado and Pantanal Matogrossense in Brazil.

Key words: Taxonomy, geographic distribution, South America, Chaco, Cerrado, Pantanal Matogrossense

Introduction

Tityus C. L. Koch is the largest genus of the scorpion family Buthidae, with 128 described species (Fet *et al.* 2000). All medically important South American scorpions belong to the genus *Tityus* (Lourenço & Eickstedt 2003). It has a wide geographic distribution in part of Central America, Caribbean and in all South American countries, except Chile. The genus is extremely complex and many species are known from a single locality or by a few specimens. For example, of the thirty two *Tityus* species listed by Lourenço (2002) for Brazil, nine are known only from their type localities. In Brazil, despite some recent efforts in understanding its geographical distribution (Lourenço 1994, 2002), little information is known about many species. The presence of one of these species, *Tityus confluens* Borelli, in Brazil, has been controversial. Some authors recorded it for the States of Mato Grosso (Vellard 1932), Goiás (Pessoa 1935), Paraná (Mello-Leitão 1945), Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, and São Paulo (Bücherl 1959); whereas other authors (Maury 1974; Lourenço 1980) accepted only a single record for Porto Murtinho, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, in