

Description of a new species of *Heteroscorpion* Birula, 1903 (Scorpiones, Heteroscorpionidae) from the Montagne des Français in extreme northern Madagascar

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Abstract

The endemic Malagasy genus *Heteroscorpion* Birula, 1903, of the family Heteroscorpionidae was monotypic for a century with *H. opisthacanthoides* (Kraepelin, 1896). Extensive field surveys conducted over the last 15 years in the different bioclimatic regions of Madagascar have resulted in the collection of numerous scorpions, including specimens belonging to the genus *Heteroscorpion*. These collections led to the description of three new species, *H. goodmani* Lourenço, 1996, *H. magnus* Lourenço & Goodman, 2002, and *H. raselimanana* Lourenço & Goodman, 2004. In this paper another species new to science is described from the extreme north of the island and is presumed to be locally endemic. With this taxon, the number of species in the genus *Heteroscorpion* is now five, and its distribution covers numerous zones of the island, including humid and dry forests. Aspects of the geographic distribution and ecology of the different species are also commented upon.

Key words: Madagascar, scorpion, *Heteroscorpion* new species, geographic distribution, ecology

Introduction

At the end of the 19th-century and the beginning of the 20th-century, the Malagasy scorpion fauna was composed of two families: the Buthidae C. L. Koch, 1837 and the Scorpionidae Latreille, 1802. This latter family was represented by the subfamily Ischnurinae Simon, 1879, with two genera: *Opisthacanthus* Peters, 1861 and *Heteroscorpion* Birula, 1903. The genus *Heteroscorpion* remained monotypic for the next century, represented by *H. opisthacanthoides* (Kraepelin 1896), known from the northwest portion of the island, until