

A new troglobitic *Pseudouroctonus* Stahnke (Scorpiones: Vaejovidae) from northern México

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Abstract

Pseudouroctonus sprousei **sp. nov.**, from El Abra cave, in Coahuila, México, is described from a single adult male. It is most similar to *Pseudouroctonus reddelli* (Gertsch and Soleglad), a well-known troglophile from Texas and Coahuila, which is also the type species for the genus *Pseudouroctonus* Stahnke.

Keywords: Scorpion, troglobites, caves

Introduction

Gertsch and Soleglad (1972) described 13 new species of *Uroctonus* Thorell, and six new species of *Vaejovis* Koch from North America; among these was a medium sized, dark troglophile from Texas, *Vaejovis reddelli*. Stahnke (1974) proposed the monotypic genus *Pseudouroctonus* for this taxon based primarily upon its distinctive cheliceral dentition: it bears 1 to 3 prominent teeth on the ventral edge of the fixed finger and 4 to 7 teeth on the ventral edge of the movable finger. Sissom (1990) rejected the validity of *Pseudouroctonus* and returned its species to *Vaejovis*, without associating it with any recognized species group.

Williams (1980) established the *minus* subgroup of *Vaejovis*, referring to it five Baja California species described by Gertsch and Soleglad (1972) as members of either *Uroctonus* or *Vaejovis*. He noted that members of this group share, among other characters, a pedipalp movable finger that is distinctly shorter than the carapace and pectinal tooth count ranges of 7 to 12 in females and 8 to 13 in males.

Williams and Savary (1991) re-examined many of the taxa described by Gertsch and