

Description of two new species of scorpions from China (Tibet) belonging to the genera *Mesobuthus* Vachon (Buthidae) and *Heterometrus* Ehrenberg (Scorpionidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of scorpions belonging to the genera *Mesobuthus* (Buthidae) and *Heterometrus* (Scorpionidae) are described, based on material collected in the region of Pulan, Chinese Tibet (Himalaya). The first, *Mesobuthus songi* sp. n., is characterized by moderate to large size (with respect to the genus), general coloration reddish-yellow to reddish brown, carinae and granulations strongly marked, and body and pedipalps with very intense setation. The second, *Heterometrus tibetanus* sp. n. is characterized by moderate size (with respect to the genus), general coloration from reddish-yellow to reddish-brown, pedipalps strongly elongated, and second metasomal segment longer than wide.

Key words: Himalayas, Pulan region, Tibet, taxonomy

Introduction

Contributions to the knowledge of the scorpion fauna of China and nearby countries such as Nepal (Himalayas) began with descriptions the first of which was that of *Scorpio Hardwickii* by Gervais (1844), which was later transferred to the genus *Scorpiops* Peters. Subsequently, other Chinese species were described by Karsch (1879) and Simon (1880). During this period, other studies made reference to species from China, namely those of Karsch (1881a,b), Kraepelin (1899, 1901) and Birula (1898, 1904, 1911, 1917, 1927). Some years later, authors in the region including Wu (1936), Kishida (1939) and Takashima (1941, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1948, 1949, 1952), attempted to clarify existing knowledge

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