

Euscorpius

Occasional Publications in Scorpiology



Scorpions 2011

John L. Cloudsley-Thompson 90th Birthday Commemorative Volume

August 2011 – Nos. 116-125

Euscorpius

Occasional Publications in Scorpiology

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Euscorpius is the first research publication completely devoted to scorpions (Arachnida: Scorpiones). *Euscorpius* takes advantage of the rapidly evolving medium of quick online publication, at the same time maintaining high research standards for the burgeoning field of scorpion science (scorpiology). *Euscorpius* is an expedient and viable medium for the publication of serious papers in scorpiology, including (but not limited to): systematics, evolution, ecology, biogeography, and general biology of scorpions. Review papers, descriptions of new taxa, faunistic surveys, lists of museum collections, and book reviews are welcome.

Derivatio Nominis

The name *Euscorpius* Thorell, 1876 refers to the most common genus of scorpions in the Mediterranean region and southern Europe (family Euscorpiidae).

Euscorpius is located on Website ‘<http://www.science.marshall.edu/fet/euscorpius/>’ at Marshall University, Huntington, WV 25755-2510, USA.

The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 4th Edition, 1999) does not accept online texts as published work (Article 9.8); however, it accepts CD-ROM publications (Article 8). *Euscorpius* is produced in two *identical* versions: online (ISSN 1536-9307) and CD-ROM (ISSN 1536-9293). Only copies distributed on a CD-ROM from *Euscorpius* are considered published work in compliance with the ICZN, i.e. for the purposes of new names and new nomenclatural acts. All *Euscorpius* publications are distributed on a CD-ROM medium to the following museums/libraries:

- **ZR**, Zoological Record, York, UK
- **LC**, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA
- **USNM**, United States National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, DC, USA
- **AMNH**, American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
- **CAS**, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA
- **FMNH**, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA
- **MCZ**, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
- **MNHN**, Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
- **NMW**, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria
- **BMNH**, British Museum of Natural History, London, England, UK
- **MZUC**, Museo Zoologico “La Specola” dell’Universita de Firenze, Florence, Italy
- **ZISP**, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia
- **WAM**, Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia
- **NTNU**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- **OUMNH**, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford, UK
- **NEV**, Library Netherlands Entomological Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Publication date: 7 August 2011

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In Honor of 90th Birthday of John L. Cloudsley-Thompson**

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A Leading Biologist: Professor John L. Cloudsley-Thompson

Professor John Cloudsley-Thompson was born on 23 May 1921, at Murree in India. When World War II broke out he was at boarding school, but in September 1939 he joined the army. He had, however, two terms at Cambridge before being called up. In August 1941 he sailed round the Cape to North Africa where he served as a tank troop leader in the 7th Armoured Division. His tank was knocked out on May 1942, and John was severely wounded. He was evacuated via South Africa and became a gunnery instructor (Captain) at Sandhurst in 1943. He managed, however, to persuade a Medical Board to upgrade him so that he could rejoin his regiment in time for D-day in June 1944 – as John explained to me much later, this was “his first visit to France”. After World War II, John returned with the honorary rank of Captain to Cambridge, where he received the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. He was awarded the degree of D.Sc. in 1960 in London.

He served as a Lecturer in Zoology at King’s College, University of London (1950–1960), Professor of Zoology, University of Khartoum and Keeper, Sudan Natural History Museum (1960–1971) and Professor of Zoology at Birkbeck College, University of London (1972–1986).

John’s experience in North Africa awakened his interest in desert biology that lasted throughout his entire career. As he tells in his book “Desert Life”, in Libya, while waiting for the next tank battle, British soldiers made pets of the local fauna. Some adopted Solifugae – typical animals of the desert also known as “jerrylanders”. John says he did not know much about such things at the time, but these creatures aroused his fascination for Arachnida until today.

During the early 1950s and before, very few workers were involved in carrying out long-term research work on desert animals especially in the field. John’s research methods were somewhat revolutionary for his time, mainly because he was capable of setting up very simple but ingenious experiments using inexpensive materials and equipment.

Other accomplishments can also illustrate John’s scientific career. One was the founding and editing of the “Journal of Arid Environments”, which started in 1978. He was also an Editor of the book series “Adaptations of Desert Organisms”. He published more than 50 books and a multitude of research papers.

My first mail contact with John took place around 1973–1974, while I was yet a young Ph.D. student, working on the ecology of scorpions from dry savannas in South America. We finally met during the 7th International Congress of Arachnology, which took place in Exeter, UK in the summer of 1977. In the following years, we met again at arachnological meetings, but it was only after his retirement from Birkbeck College, University of London that a more intense scientific exchange started between us.

Since 1993, we have shared a common interest in many aspects of scorpion reproductive biology, ecology, pattern of distribution, and human interactions with these animals. Scorpions represent one of the most conspicuous zoological groups in deserts and naturally have always fascinated John during his field studies. Over almost 20 years of close collaboration, I was myself surprised to see that we co-authored nearly 45 papers. Most remarkable, however, was to feel the refreshing enthusiasm John could have to each new subject, in the same way a young student would.

Ten years ago I was very honoured to take part in the “Festschrift for Prof. J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson on his 80th Birthday”. Today, I feel even more honoured to contribute to the celebration of his 90th Birthday, as do all the other contributors to this volume.

Wilson R. Lourenço

*Paris,
May 31, 2011*



John and Anne Cloudsley-Thompson, London.