Figure 13: Locality of *Buthus tunetanus* (Tunisia, Beja Province, Jebel Sabbah Mts., Bou Salem, 10 km NW Balta, 27 May 2005 and 2 June 2005).

onym of *Buthus tunetanus* (see Fet & Lowe, 2000: 97), to verify that it is not one of the species proposed in this study as new. The holotype in question is a female (Fig. 20) from Egypt (ZMHB No. 145) and has the chela markedly narrower than *B. tunetanus*; its movable fingers bear 11 rows of granules.

I have not been able to find any differences between this type, the holotype of *Androctonus* (*Leiurus*) *tunetanus intermedius*, and *Buthus* specimens from Israel identified as *Buthus occitanus israelis*. The inevitable conclusion is that *Buthus intumescens* (Ehrenberg in Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1829), comb. n. is a valid species occurring in Egypt (Sinai) and Israel, and its synonyms are *Buthus occitanus mardochei* var. *israelis* Shulov & Amitai, 1959, syn. n. and *Androctonus* (*Leiurus*) *tunetanus intermedius* Ehrenberg in Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1829, syn. n. The holotype of the latter taxon is a female labeled as from Lohaie (ZMHB No. 146). Lohaie, now Al Luhayyah, Yemen, probably is an incorrect locality, because no specimen of *Buthus* from the Arabian Peninsula has ever been confirmed (Braunwalder & Fet, 1998: 34; Fet & Lowe, 2000: 94). Although *Androctonus* (*Leiurus*) *tunetanus intumescens* and *A.* (*L.*) *tunetanus intermedius* are described in the same work, the description of *A. t. intumescens* (p. 354) precedes that of *A. t. intermedius* (p. 355), thus the first name must have priority.

In case of *Buthus occitanus mardochei* var. *israelis* Shulov & Amitai, 1959, I have not studied types and base my conclusions on nine studied specimens from Negev. As noted above, the primary criterion for assessing species of the *Buthus occitanus* complex, i.e. all taxa formerly considered subspecies of *Buthus occitanus* (Amoreux, 1789) or of *Buthus tunetanus* (Herbst, 1800), is the width of pedipalp chela and its relation to sexual dimorphism. In the case of *Buthus intumescens* (Ehrenberg in Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1829), comb. n. the different width of chela shows this taxon to have the status of a species rather than a subspecies (Fig. 20), as the chela is narrower than in *Buthus occitanus* (Amoreux, 1789) and *Buthus tunetanus* (Herbst, 1800) (Figs. 16 and 18).

Key to Tunisian species of the genus *Buthus*

1. Chela of same width in both sexes, or male chela slightly wider (Figs. 18 and 16) **2**
– Chela much wider in female than in male (Figs. 4 and 2) **3**

Figure 14: Burrow of *Buthus tunetanus* at the locality pictured in Figure 13.

Figure 15: Female *Buthus tunetanus* at the locality pictured in Figure 13.

Figure 16: *Buthus tunetanus*, ♂, dorsal aspect.

Figure 17: *Buthus tunetanus*, ♂, ventral aspect.

Figure 18: *Buthus tunetanus*, ♀, dorsal aspect.

Figure 19: *Buthus tunetanus*, ♀, ventral aspect.

Figure 20: *Buthus intumescens* (Ehrenberg in Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1829), comb. n., ♀, holotype, dorsal aspect.

2. Adults 60–80 mm long, with robust chela. Chela length to width ratio always lower than 3.5 ...……..... *Buthus tunetanus*
– Adults under 60 mm long. Chela length to width ratio always higher than 4.3 ..... *Buthus dunlopi*, **sp. n.**

3. Base color reddish brown, with conspicuous dark grayish-brown to ochre pattern on mesosoma. Movable fingers of pedipalps bear 12 to 14 rows of granules. Male chela length to width ratio lower than 4.8 .....……..... *Buthus paris*
– Base color yellowish brown, mesosoma darker and without noticeable color pattern. Movable fingers of pedipalps bear 11 or 12 rows of granules. Male chela very narrow (the narrowest of all Tunisian species of *Buthus*). Chela length to width ratio 5.25 in males, 3.4 in females ..... *Buthus chambiensis*, **sp. n.**

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