goods required in these remote towns are produced in
the southern regions of Brazil where Tityus serrulatus
is present.

This case of transportation by human agency is an
isolated one. There should be no chance of permanent
introduction of Tityus serrulatus into Amazonia,
since it is only successful in modified environments and is
selected negatively against the local species of the
equatorial forest (Lourenço & Cloudsley-Thompson,
1996; Lourenço et al., 1996).

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Scorpion Taxonomy

by John Cloudsley-Thompson

Michael E. Soleglad and Victor Fet are to be congratu-
lated on their latest publication: ‘High-level Systematics
and Phylogeny of the Extant Scorpions: (Scorpiones:
Orthosterni)’. Euscorpius. Occasional Publications in
Scorpiology, No. 11, December 2003, 175 pp. This
huge, comprehensive work on the taxonomy of all
modern groups of scorpions includes a considerable
amount of detailed character analysis. Many of these
characters, such as tarsal spination, biogeography and
cladistics, are described for the first time. Especially
important is the analysis of a newly discovered relict
genus, Pseudochactas from Central Asia. P. ochinikovi
Gromov is most probably a Tethys relict. It is sepa-
rated into its own family, superfamly and parvorder. It
possesses a set of paired ventral median carinae on
metasomal segment V, which is unique among recent
scorpions so far described. One of the main issues for
extant scorpion phylogeny has been its ‘rooting’
within fossil taxa. Many earlier authors had no reserva-
tions about deriving extant scorpions from Palaeozoic
taxa. Some even derived present day genera from
more than one fossil ancestor! Recent work by
Soleglad & Fet, incorporated here, has been elabora-
tion of the orthobothriotaxy of Max Vachon’s three
trichobothrial ‘types’ and the identification of two
more, one for the new extant Pseudochactidae,
another for the fossil Palaeopispistacanthidae. The last
included information on Cretaceous taxa, most of
which have been described by Wilson Lourenço
Despite this, high-level scorpion phylogeny and taxon-
omy are still basically unresolved, and the division of
extant family groups is not yet settled. It is, however,
to be hoped that this work will, for many years, serve
the basic needs of taxonomists working on Scorpiones.
Worth mentioning is that, following the example of the
redoubtable Pierre Bonnet who
summarised
’De la nomenclature en sciences naturelles’ in his
‘Essai poetique’ (1948), Victor Fet concludes his own
joint publication with ‘An essay on scorpion’—in light-
hearted verse written in the style of W. S. Gilbert.

Whilst on the subject of scorpions, it may be useful
to add that, during the early 1960s, I worked, among
other things, on the reproduction of the ‘Omdurman
scorpion’ as Leiurus quinquestriatus (Buthidae) was
called in Khartoum. Faysal Abushama was one of my
research students in those days, and the same species
formed the subject of his thesis. Neither of us was able
to determine the sex of our specimens except by
watching their reproductive behaviour or by dissecting
them. A few years ago, the problem was solved for me
by Wilson Lourenço, who pointed out that, in buthids,
the male pectines are always larger than those of the
female. Moreover, they usually overlap in their internal
portions whereas the female pectines never overlap.

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with very best wishes

[Signature]

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