

## Rediscovery of *Orobothriurus bivittatus* (Thorell 1877) stat. n., comb. n. in the Sierra del Tontal, Argentina (Scorpiones, Bothriuridae)

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### Abstract

The long neglected scorpion species *Orobothriurus bivittatus* (Thorell) stat. n., comb. n. (Bothriuridae), formerly considered a subspecies of *Urophonius brachycentrus* (Thorell) and more recently placed under synonymy of the type species of *Orobothriurus* Maury, *O. alticola* (Pocock), is revalidated and redescribed on a male captured in the Sierra del Tontal, west Argentina. It proved to be a close relative of *O. alticola*, from which it can be separated by some details of the hemispermato-phore morphology (e.g. relative length of the lamina apex, lobular expansions at the inflexion point of the front crest). This species is probably a high altitude endemic to the Precordillera, a range separated from the Andes (where *O. alticola* was collected) by a narrow valley. The type locality for *O. bivittatus* stat. n., comb. n. (and also for *Telegonus weijenberghi* Thorell) is restricted to the upper belts of the mentioned range, as thoroughly discussed. To ensure nomenclatural stability, it is proposed to set aside the existing holotype and to designate the studied male as neotype.

**Key words:** Neotropics, Precordillera, systematics, nomenclature, type locality

### Introduction

The scorpion species *Cercophonius brachycentrus bivittatus* Thorell 1877 (Bothriuridae), currently under the synonymy of *Orobothriurus alticola* (Pocock 1899), is probably the most enigmatic species of the Argentinean scorpiofauna. It was described on a single juvenile, as a presumable "variety" of *Cercophonius brachycentrus* Thorell 1877 (today in *Urophonius* Pocock 1893), but remained ignored in the literature for more than 50 years (Acosta 2002). It was Mello-Leitão (1931) who "rescued" the name, by formally assigning to it a subspecific rank, *Urophonius brachycentrus bivittatus*. That change was just nomenclatural, since no author, not even Mello-Leitão, knew what kind of scorpion *bivittatus* was. For a further half a century the few subsequent citations of the name simply fol-