

First record of the scorpion genus *Chactas* Gervais, 1844, for Brazil with description of a new species from western State of Amazonas (Scorpiones: Chactidae)

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Abstract

A new species, *Chactas braziliensis* sp. n., is described from Brazilian Amazonia. It can be distinguished from congeners by its small size, a generally darker coloration, a higher number of pectinal teeth, a totally smooth vesicle and its ecological preferences. The genus *Chactas* Gervais, 1844 is recorded for the first time for Brazil and the Amazon basin. The geographical pattern of its distribution is discussed.

Key words: Amazon region, Rio IPIXUNA region, endemism, taxonomy

Introduction

As already commented by Lourenço and Machado (2004), studies of the Amazonian scorpion fauna and, in particular, of the family Chactidae, began from the middle to the second half of the 19th century with a number of publications including those of Gervais (1844), Karsch (1879), Simon (1877, 1880) and Pocock (1893, 1897, 1900). Most of this work, however, focused on Oriental Amazonia, mainly Eastern Brazil and parts of the Guayana region. Subsequently, Mello-Leitão (1945) in his monograph on the scorpions of South America proposed a global synthesis of the family Chactidae.

Several studies have been published in the last three decades describing numerous new taxa belonging to the family Chactidae Pocock. One of the most important of these studies is that by Gonzalez-Sponga (1996), who dealt almost exclusively with the fauna of Vene-