

# ZOOTAXA

2001

**Tarsal spinules and setae of vaejovid scorpions  
(Scorpiones: Vaejovidae)**

KARI J. MCWEST



Magnolia Press  
Auckland, New Zealand

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(*Zootaxa* 2001)

126 pp.; 30 cm.

4 Feb. 2009

ISBN 978-1-86977-323-6 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-86977-324-3 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2009 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: [zootaxa@mapress.com](mailto:zootaxa@mapress.com)

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)



## Tarsal spinules and setae of vaejovid scorpions (Scorpiones: Vaejovidae)

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### Abstract

The relative importance of tarsal characters in vaejovid scorpions has long been neglected. The spinules and setae of the third leg basitarsus and telotarsus of the North American scorpion family Vaejovidae are illustrated, described, and compared. Nomenclature for tarsal spinules and setae is included. Variation in setal numbers and patterns within taxonomic groups, including some species, is addressed. Certain tarsal setal and spinule patterns are found to provide good characters at the genus, species group, and species levels. Over 400 specimens representing over half of the species in the family Vaejovidae were examined for setal and spinule characters. The majority of these specimens were involved in an analysis of telotarsal spinule counts of each leg. The most consistent characters that have taxonomic value were found on the telotarsus, including the relative numbers of the retroinferior and proinferior setae, the retroinferior terminal and proinferior terminal setae, and the numbers of the distal spinules of the ventromedian telotarsus surface. Other characters involving the basitarsus and additional telotarsus characters are addressed.

**Key words:** scorpions, Vaejovidae, arachnids, leg, tarsal setae, tarsal spinules, telotarsus, basitarsus