



A new *Vaejovis* (Scorpiones: Vaejovidae) from Chiapas, México

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Abstract

Vaejovis ocotensis sp. n. is described from “El Ocote Biosphere Reserve”, Chiapas, México. This is the third species of this genus reported for Chiapas, and the first belonging to the *nitidulus* group.

Key words: Scorpion, *nitidulus* group, El Ocote

Introduction

Chiapas is considered to exhibit the second highest biodiversity among the states of Mexico (CONABIO 1998). The Selva El Ocote Biosphere Reserve, which is located between 16° 45' 42"–17° 09' 00" N and 93° 54' 19"–93° 21' 20" W, was established in the year 2000 for the protection and conservation of an important area of the Selva Zoque in the northwestern region of the state (SEMARNAT 2001). The Zoque ethnic culture inhabited most of Chiapas (and adjacent areas) during pre-Hispanic times, thus the name given to that region, which represents one of the most important biodiversity places in Mexico (Morrone & Márquez 2008). The Reserve has terrain with altitudes ranging from 180–1500 msnm and the vegetation most representative is evergreen seasonal forest, but there are other types such as lower montane rain forest, tropical deciduous forest, thorn woodland, short-three savannah and in the highlands pine-oak forest (Breedlove 1981). The “El Ocote” reserve and surrounding areas are characterized by their karstic landscapes, where there are numerous pits and caves. The objective of this contribution is to describe a new scorpion species from that area. It is the third *Vaejovis* species for Chiapas, and the first belonging to the *nitidulus* group. The previously reported taxa are *Vaejovis chiapas* Sissom and *Vaejovis trespicos* Zárate-Gálvez & Francke, both belonging to the *mexicanus* group.

The *nitidulus* group was originally proposed and characterized by Sissom and Francke (1985). Subsequently, Sissom (1991) added species and diagnostic characters to the group. Sissom and González-Santillán (2004) described another species and provided a key to the known taxa. Recent controversy regarding the treatment of the group by Soleglad and Fet (2005) has been discussed by others (Prendini & Wheeler 2005; McWest 2009) and will not be considered here.

Material and methods

Nomenclature and mensuration for the most part follow Stahnke (1970), except for trichobothrial terminology after Vachon (1974), metasomal carinal terminology after Francke (1977) and pedipalp carinae terminology