



On the taxonomic status of *Chactas camposi* Mello-Leitão, 1939 (Scorpiones, Chactidae)

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Abstract

The true taxonomic status of the chactid scorpion *Chactas camposi* Mello-Leitão, 1939 from Ecuador is established based in the recently discovered holotype female, until now considered lost, at the Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro. In base on the analysis of the external morphology, we transfer this species to the genus *Teuthraustes* Simon, 1878. A detailed redescription and diagnosis according to modern standards are provided. *Teuthraustes camposi* comb. n. is closely related with *Teuthraustes whymperi* (Pocock, 1893) from Ecuadorian provinces Pichincha and Cotopaxi.

Key words: Scorpiones, *Teuthraustes*, Ecuador, Andes

Resumen

Se establece la verdadera posición taxonómica del escorpión *Chactas camposi* Mello-Leitão, 1939 de Ecuador, basado en el reciente descubrimiento del holotipo hembra, hasta ahora considerado perdido, en el Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro. En base al análisis de la morfología externa, transferimos esta especie al género *Teuthraustes* Simon, 1878. Se brindan una diagnosis y redescrípción detallada de la especie de acuerdo a los estándares modernos. *Teuthraustes camposi* comb. n. está muy relacionada con *Teuthraustes whymperi* (Pocock, 1893) de las provincias Ecuatorianas de Pichincha y Cotopaxi.

Introduction

Mello-Leitão (1939) described a new species of chactid scorpion, *Chactas camposi* Mello-Leitão, based on a single female specimen from Ecuador, collected by Francisco Campos and deposited at Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ, Brazil). In his monograph of South American scorpions, Mello-Leitão (1945) redescribed this species and included it in the subgenus *Chactas* (*Euchactas*) Mello-Leitão, 1945; the redescription is basically a translation of the original Spanish description to Portuguese. Subsequently, this species was cited only in checklists of scorpion species from Ecuador (Lourenço 1994, 1995; Lourenço & Duhem 2010) and in the Catalog of Scorpions of the World (Sissom 2000). The holotype and unique type specimen of *C. camposi* was considered lost by Lourenço (1995), and in recent revisions of the type material of Arachnida from MNRJ this specimen was not found in the collection, or at least it was not labelled as type (Kury & Nogueira 1999).

In a more recent visit to the MNRJ we found a single specimen (MNRJ 58732) labeled as “*Chactas rosenbergi* Pocock”, most certainly written by Mello-Leitão. The procedence of the specimen (“*Montañas de Cañar—Ecuador*”) and the collector (“*Francisco Campos, leg.*”), made us suspect that it could be the material described by Mello-Leitão as holotype of *Chactas camposi*. No other scorpion specimen collected by Francisco Campos is currently housed in the collection of the MNRJ.

Despite being slightly damaged and having the metasoma detached, the review of the morphological features of this specimen, such as carination of metasomal segments, pectinal tooth count, and shape of the anterior margin of the carapace, telson and pedipalps, along with the morphometric measurements, match perfectly with the origi-