Hemibuthus kraepelini, a junior synonym of Hottentotta rugiscutitis 
(Scorpiones: Buthidae)

František KOVARÍK

P. O. Box 27, CZ–145 01 Praha 45, Czech Republic

Received April 23, 1998: accepted September 24, 1998
Published August 22, 1999

Abstract. Hemibuthus kraepelini Roewer, 1943, is junior synonym of Hottentotta rugiscutitis (Pocock, 1897). The genus Hemibuthus Pocock, 1900 has the fixed finger of chelicera with only one ventral denticle, whereas the genus Hottentotta Birula, 1908 and examined types of Hemibuthus kraepelini have two ventral denticles. Hemibuthus kraepelini has the same number of granular rows on the movable finger of pedipalps (12), coloration, number of pectinal teeth, overall size, and other characters as Hottentotta rugiscutitis. H. rugiscutitis is here for the first time placed in the genus Hottentotta. This species has so far been placed in the genera Buthus, Buthotus or Mesobuthus. A key to the Indian species of the genus Hottentotta is provided.

Taxonomy, new synonymy, key, Scorpiones, Buthidae, Hemibuthus kraepelini, Hottentotta rugiscutitis, India

Material. Designation of the basic trichobothrial pattern (alpha and beta configurations) is adopted from Sissem (1990).

Hottentotta rugiscutitis (Pocock, 1897) comb. n.

Buthus rugiscutitis Pocock, 1897: 106; Kraepelin, 1899: 20; Pocock, 1900: 26; Takashima, 1945: 74.
Buthus (Buthus) rugiscutitis: Roewer, 1943: 206.
Buthus pachyrurus rugiscutitis: Kraepelin, 1913: 130.
Buthus rugiscutitis nigritus Pocock, 1900: 27.
Buthus pachyrurus nigritus: Kraepelin, 1913: 130.

Type Locality. Maheshwar Tal, Satara, S. Dekhan, India.

Material. India, Dekan, Nilgiris, 1 female (hereby designated the lectotype of Hemibuthus kraepelini) and 2 males (hereby designated the paralectotypes Nos 1–2 of Hemibuthus kraepelini) No. 8880/222 in Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Diagnosis. The basic trichobothrial pattern is beta (Sissem 1990: 70, fig. 3.3); the third and fourth legs have well developed tibial spurs; the pectines bear fulcra (Sissem 1990: 92, fig. 3.17D); the dentate margin of pedipalp–chela movable finger bears distinct granules divided into 12 rows; the entire dorsal surface of the carapace is nearly horizontal in lateral view; the cheliceral fixed finger has two ventral denticles; the second metasomal segment is similar in width to other metasomal segments; the tergites of mesosoma bear three carinae; the carapace bears distinct carinae including central lateral carinae; the trichobothrium eb is clearly on the fixed finger of pedipalps; the movable finger of pedipalps bears four principal distal granules and one terminal granule; the first
and second tarsomeres bear paired ventral spines; and the ventrolateral carinae of the fifth metasomal segment have all granules more or less equal in size and never lobate.

_Hottentotta rugiscutis_ is also characterized by yellowish-brown body, pale-yellow legs, total length not exceeding 45 mm, and 20–26 pectinal teeth. Other characters are given in the description of _Hottentotta rugiscutis_ (Pocock, 1897: 106).

**Comments.** Pocock (1897) described _Hottentotta rugiscutis_ as _Buthus rugiscutis_ from a male and female, which are deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), London, England. In 1900 he further described the subspecies _Buthus rugiscutis nigerius_ from one female, also deposited in the British Museum. I refrain from comments on subspecific taxonomy, as they would require more specimens.

Roewer (1943) described _Hemibuthus kraepelini_ from one female and two males without selecting one of them as the holotype, without mentioning characters that would justify placing the species in the genus _Hemibuthus_, and differentiating it only from the type species _Hemibuthus crassimanus_ (Roewer, 1943: 216).

An enclosed label indicates that the types of _Hemibuthus kraepelini_ were examined in 1960 by Max Vachon, who regarded them as _Buthotus kraepelini_, but never mentioned them in print, not even in the revision of the genus _Buthotus_ (Vachon & Stockmann, 1968). The genus _Buthotus_ Vachon, 1949, is a junior synonym of _Hottentotta_ Birula, 1908 (see Fet, 1988: 81).

**Affinities.** _Hemibuthus_ is most closely related to _Hottentotta_. The genus _Hemibuthus_ is characterized by only one ventral denticle on the cheliceral fixed finger, whereas _Hottentotta_ has two ventral denticles (Sissom, 1990: 97–100).

The four species of the genus _Hottentotta_ occurring in India may be differentiated as follows:

1. Pectinal teeth number 26–38. Total length of adult 60–80 mm. _Hottentotta tamulus_ (Fabricius, 1798)
   - Pectinal teeth number 20–26. Total length of adult 38–50 mm. _Hottentotta kendersoni_ (Pocock, 1900)

2. Total length of adult 45–50 mm. Movable finger of pedipalp long, with 13–15 rows of granules. _Hottentotta rugiscutis_ (Pocock, 1897)
   - Total length of adult not more than 45 mm. Movable finger of pedipalps short, with 12 rows of granules. _Hottentotta pachyurus_ (Pocock, 1897)

3. Color yellowish-brown. Legs pale yellow, never dark. _Hottentotta rugiscutis_ (Pocock, 1897)
   - Color dark blackish-green. _Hottentotta pachyurus_ (Pocock, 1897)

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank M. Grasshoff and Ulrike Schreiber of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, for the loan of types of _Hemibuthus kraepelini_, and Jiří Zidek for translating the text.

**References**


