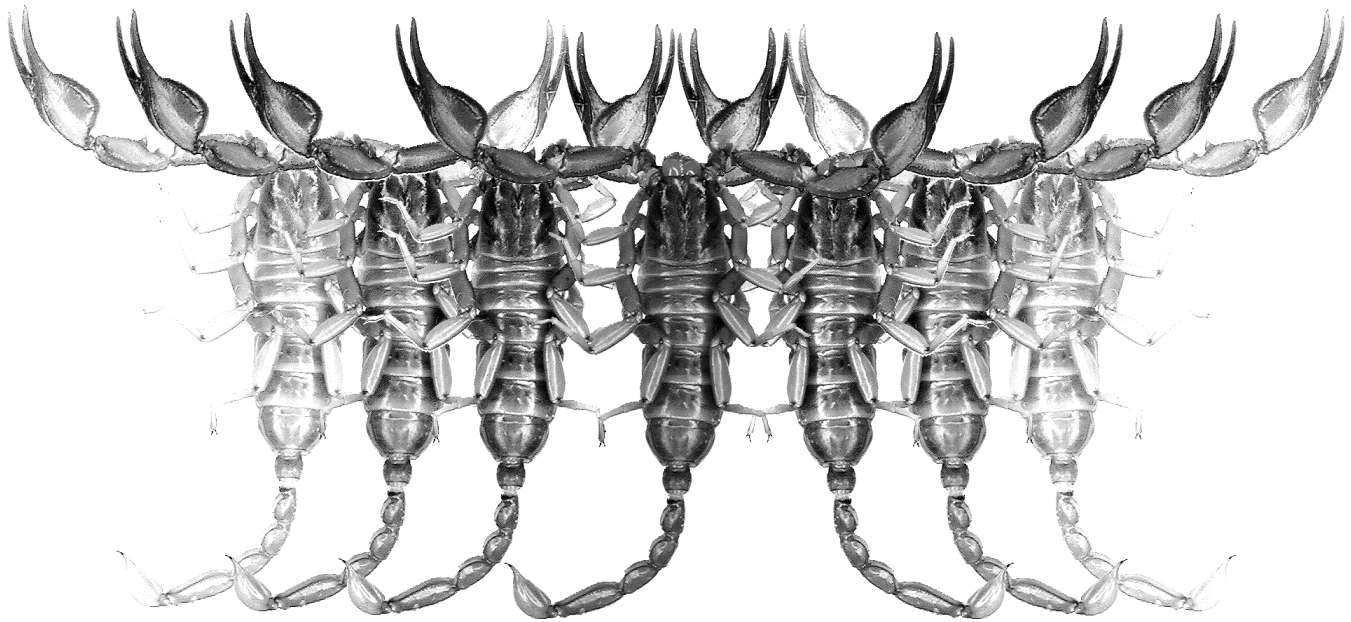


Euscorpium

Occasional Publications in Scorpiology



**A New Locality of *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites*
(C. L. Koch, 1839) (Scorpiones: Buthidae) in East
Kazakhstan**

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Euscorpius

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- **BMNH**, British Museum of Natural History, London, England, UK
- **MZUC**, Museo Zoologico "La Specola" dell'Universita de Firenze, Florence, Italy
- **ZISP**, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia
- **WAM**, Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia
- **NTNU**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
- **OUMNH**, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford, UK
- **NEV**, Library Netherlands Entomological Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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A new locality of *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* (C. L. Koch, 1839) (Scorpiones: Buthidae) in East Kazakhstan

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Summary

A new locality of *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* (C. L. Koch, 1839) is reported, found during the fieldtrip to East Kazakhstan, one of the most northern areas where scorpions are found in Asia. Notes on the habitats, map and photographs of specimens are given.

Introduction

Only two species of Central Asian scorpions reach far to the north in Russia and Kazakhstan. These are *Mesobuthus caucasicus* (Nordmann, 1840) and *Mesobuthus eupeus* (C. L. Koch, 1839) (Buthidae). The northern boundary of the first species follows from the Ustyurt Plateau, through Aral Sea, to Balkhash and Alakol Lakes (Gromov, 2001). The second species is found much further to the north. The northern boundary of *Mesobuthus eupeus* (C. L. Koch, 1839) follows from the Astrakhan Province of Russia and West Kazakhstan through Orenburg Province of Russia and Mugodzhary Mountains, Turgai Depression, southern foothills of Kazakhsky Melkosopochnik Plateau, East Kazakhstan, to southern part of Mongolia. The record in the Orenburg Province at 51°13'N, 57°75'E is the northernmost record of *Mesobuthus eupeus* (as well as the family Buthidae and the order Scorpiones) in Asia (Fet, 2010).

After the Orenburg Province, East Kazakhstan is the second northernmost area in Asia where *M. eupeus* is found. Its northern boundary in East Kazakhstan is up to 49°N (Gromov, 2001). There are known several localities in East Kazakhstan where scorpions are found. Here, we provide a new locality of *M. eupeus* in East Kazakhstan.

Material and Methods

The scorpions were collected by the author together with A. N. Litvinov during a field trip to East Kazakhstan in June 30 – July 16, 2011. The studied area located in Urdzhar District of East Kazakhstan Province, Kazakhstan. The data of localities and habitats in which scorpions were found are given below. Specimens were

collected by hand under stones during the day and preserved in 70% ethanol.

Material will be deposited in the collection of the Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals, Novosibirsk, Russia (ISEA).

Systematics

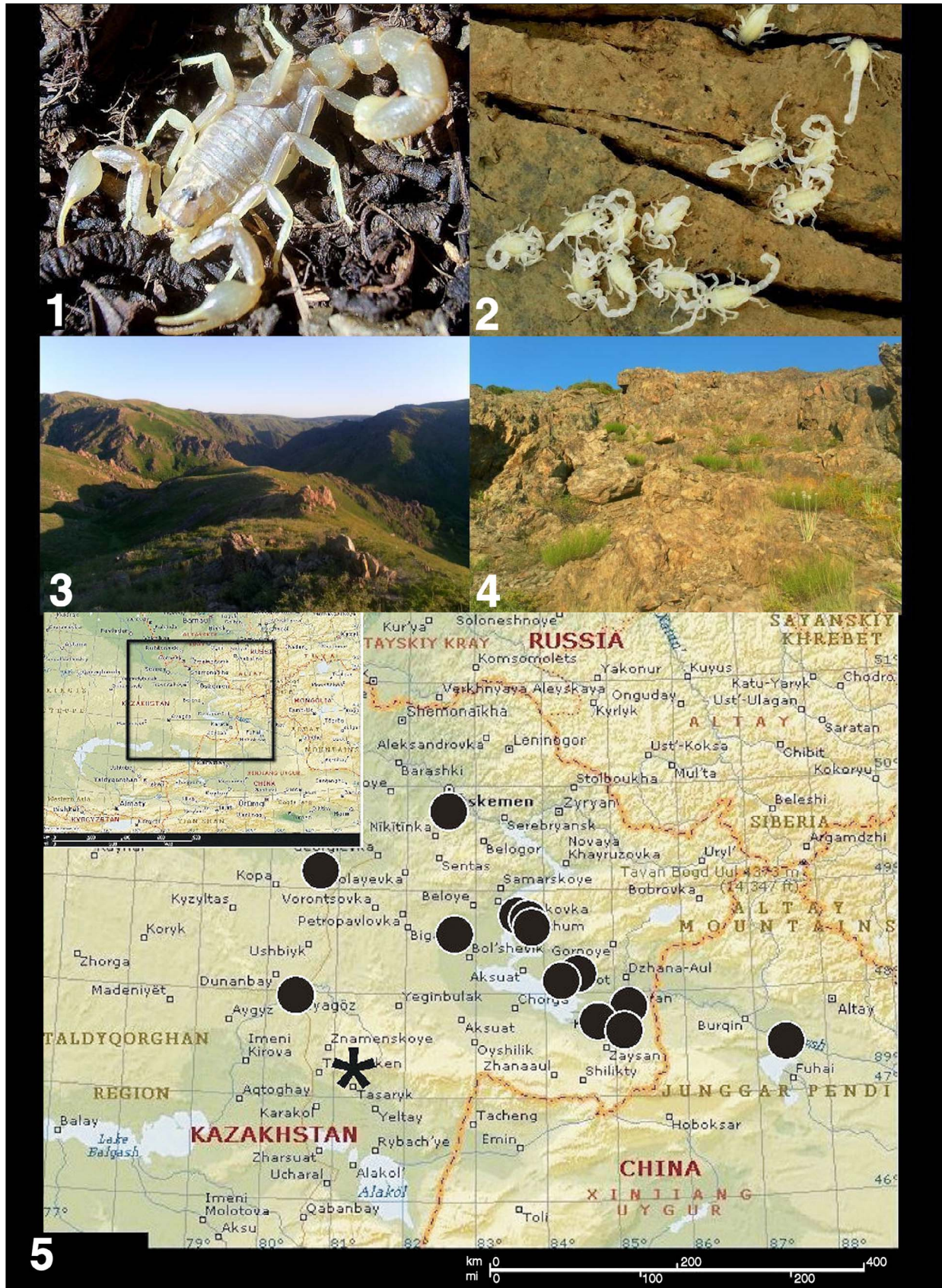
Subspecies-level systematics in the extremely widely ranging and polymorphic *Mesobuthus eupeus* is still under revision (Fet, 2010). The East Kazakhstan populations as well as most populations from Central Asia are usually referred to the subspecies *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* (C. L. Koch, 1839).

New locality of *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* (C. L. Koch, 1839):

1. Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan Province, Urdzhar District, Kyzylbel'tau Mountains (near SW part of West Tarbagatai mountain range), near Terekty (Blagodatnoe) village (47°14'N, 81°19'E), mountain steppe with stony outcrops and rocks, 1000 m asl, 30 June 2011, 4♀♀, 1♂ (A.A.Fomichev, A.N.Litvinov).
2. Same locality (47°14'N, 81°18'E), 1000 m asl, 02 July 2011, 1♂ (A.A.Fomichev, A.N.Litvinov).
3. Same locality (47°13'N, 81°18'E), 900 m asl, 10-15 July 2011, 2♀, 1♂juv (A.A.Fomichev, A.N.Litvinov).

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Dr. Victor Fet (Huntington, West Virginia, USA) for the help in iden-



Figures 1–5: 1. *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* (C. L. Koch, 1839) at the new locality. 2. Juvenile specimens. 3–4. The habitat at the new locality, Kyzylbel'tau Mountains (47°13'N, 81°18'E), altitude 900 m. 5. Collecting localities of *Mesobuthus eupeus thersites* in East Kazakhstan. Circles, previous records; star, new record.

tification of scorpions and for important advice in paper preparation. Also, I am grateful to A. N. Litvinov (Ter-ekty, Kazakhstan) for his valuable help in the organization of the field trip, in which the material was collected, and for his help in collecting.

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