

Genetic and morphometric analysis of *Hottentotta saulcyi* in Iran reveal new cryptic species

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The medical important scorpion *Hottentotta saulcyi* (Simon, 1880) (Buthidae) is widespread in Iran. Masoumeh Amiri and co-workers have studied the different populations and genetic and morphometric analyses revealed a new cryptic species.

Hottentotta hatamtiorum Amiri, Prendini, Hussen, Aliabadian, Siahsarvie & Mirshamsi, 2024

Abstract:

Morphological and genetic variation among populations of the widespread buthid scorpion, *Hottentotta saulcyi* (Simon, 1880), occurring in western and southwestern Iran was explored using morphometric variables, one nuclear marker (28S rDNA) and three mitochondrial markers (12S rDNA, 16S rDNA, and Cytochrome c Oxidase Subunit I). Genetic and morphometric statistical analyses revealed extensive cryptic diversity. Phylogenetic analysis with Bayesian Inference and Maximum Likelihood uncovered two divergent clades, one of which is described as a new species,

Hottentotta hatamtiorum sp. nov., from Ilam and Khuzestan Provinces, southwestern Iran. The description of the new species raises the total count of *Hottentotta* Birula, 1908 species to 61, twelve of which are endemic or subendemic to the Iranian Plateau.

Reference:

Amiri M, Prendini L, Hussen FS, Aliabadian M, Siahsarvie R, Mirshamsi O. Integrative systematics of the widespread Middle Eastern buthid scorpion, *Hottentotta saulcyi* (Simon, 1880), reveals a new species in Iran. Arthropod Systematics & Phylogeny. 2024;82:323-41. [Open Access]

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