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# **Investigation of Scorpions (Arachnida: Scorpiones) in some Central areas of Sistan and Baluchistan Province, South-Eastern Iran**

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## Abstract

Scorpions are the oldest arthropods that have preserved their original appearance largely, and due to the presence of species with dangerous and deadly venom for humans, and on the other hand, due to the presence of effective compounds for the treatment of certain diseases in their venom, they are of great interest. Despite the presence of scorpions in many parts of the country, very brief and limited studies have been conducted in some parts of the hotspot areas. In this study, the scorpion fauna of Zahedan, Khash and Mirjaveh cities in Sistan and Baluchistan province was investigated during 2022 and 2023. In addition, samples were collected from Zabol and Saravan cities. For this purpose, sampling was done at night with the help of a UV light and during the day by digging in the leaves and trunks of trees, under stones and lumps, in the cracks of the ground, etc. Examining the samples led to the identification of eight species belong seven genera of the Buthidae family. Identified species are including: *Androctonus* cf. *crassicauda* (Olivier, 1807), *A. sistanus* Barahoei & Mirshamsi, 2022, *Compsobuthus* sp., *Hottentotta sistanensis* Kovarik et al., 2018, *Mesobuthus rakhshanii* Barahoei, 2022, *Odontobuthus turgari* Mirshamsi et al., 2013, *Orthochirus persa* (Birula, 1900) and *Sassanidotus gracilis* (Birula, 1900). The members of the *Compsobuthus* seem to belong to the new species. All four species collected from Mirjaveh County are new report for the fauna of this region. Five species are new for the fauna of Zahedan County and three species are new for the fauna of Khash County. The samples are stored in plastic containers containing 70% alcohol in the Scorpionology Museum of Research Institute of Zabol. This information will be useful and important in determining the fauna of scorpions in the region and determining the range of distribution of the studied species, to help in prevention, management and treatment as well as medical and health education.

**Keywords:** Scorpion, Fauna, Baluchistan, new record, *Comosobuthus*, Taxonomy.