Family **MICROCHARMIDAE** Lourenço, 1996

**VICTOR FET**

The members of this family, originally placed in Buthidae, were very recently given separate familial status. Only a preliminary justification (not based on cladistic methodology) was provided for the recognition of the family (Lourenço, 1998e). It includes two genera of diminutive (adult size 7 to 16 mm), tropical African scorpions which live in humid forest litter.

Despite the fact that many attempts to recognize suprageneric categories in the Buthidae have been made (including the Microcharmidae and Akentrobuthinae), no other proposed subordinate taxon of Buthidae has been yet elevated to family level. In fact, understanding of phylogeny and classification of the buthid genera remains poor (see introductory notes under Buthidae). The complicated taxonomy of the Buthidae warrants detailed study, and justified treatment of buthid subfamilies and genera remains one of the major goals for scorpion systematics.


**REFERENCES**


**DISTRIBUTION:** AFRICA. Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar.

**Subfamily** **AKENTROBUTHINAE** Lamoral, 1976


**REFERENCES**


**DISTRIBUTION:** AFRICA. Democratic Republic of Congo.

**NOTES:** It was noticed (R. Teruel Ochoa, pers. comm., 1999) that Akentrobuthinae Lamoral, 1976 has priority over Microcharmidae Lourenço, 1996 as a family-group name. However, we refrain here from changing the family name pending further justification of the taxonomic status of both subfamilies.

Genus **AKENTROBUTHUS** Lamoral, 1976


**REFERENCES**


**DISTRIBUTION:** AFRICA. Democratic Republic of Congo.

**NOTES:** This tropical litter-dwelling monotypic genus was originally separated in a monotypic subfamily Akentrobuthinae by Lamoral (1976) based on the possession of peculiar (possibly chemoreceptive) macrosetae. However, later the same author (Lamoral, 1980: 442) did not recognize Akentrobuthinae as a valid subfamily.

*Akentrobuthus leleupi* Lamoral, 1976

**HOLOTYPE:** ♀ (MRAC), Kivu, 1050 m, Kalehe, Bunyakiri, Zaire, now Democratic Republic of Congo.

**PARATYPES:** 13 ♀ (MRAC), 4 ♀ (NM), same locality as holotype.

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REFERENCES

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Democratic Republic of Congo.

Subfamily MICROCHARMINAE Lourenço, 1996


REFERENCES

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Madagascar.

Genus MICROCHARMUS Lourenço, 1995


REFERENCES

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Madagascar.

NOTES: This small genus was separated by Lourenço (1996e) in a separate subfamily, Microcharminae, then under Buthidae. Keys to its species are found in Lourenço (1996e, 1998e).

Microcharmus cloudsleythompsoni Lourenço, 1995

Microcharmus cloudsleythompsoni Lourenço, 1995g: 99–100, fig. 9–11, 23.
HOLOTYPE: ♀ (MNHN), Djangoa, 22 km SW of Ambanja, Madagascar Sambirano, Madagascar.

REFERENCES

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Madagascar.

Microcharmus fisheri Lourenço, 1998

Microcharmus fisheri: Lourenço, 1998i: 69–70, fig. 5–1(1–4).
HOLOTYPE: ♂ (FMNH), 9.2 km SSW of Befingotra, Réserve Spéciale d’Anjanaharibe-Sud, 1200 m, 14°45’S, 49°28’E, Madagascar Est, Madagascar.
PARATYPES: 1 ♀ (FMNH), same locality as holotype; 1 ♂ (MNHN), 6.5 km SSW of Befingotra, Réserve Spéciale d’Anjanaharibe-Sud, 875 m, 14°45’S, 49°30’E, Madagascar Est, Madagascar.

REFERENCES
Microcharmus fisheri: Lourenço, 1998e: 846, fig. 5.

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Madagascar.

Microcharmus hauseri Lourenço, 1996

HOLOTYPE: ♂ (MHNG), Lokobe Natural Reserve, Ile Nosy Be, Andoany subprefecture, Madagascar Sambirano, Madagascar.

REFERENCES

DISTRIBUTION: AFRICA. Madagascar.
**Microcharmus jussarae** Lourenço, 1996


**Holotype:** sub δ (MNHN), Lokobe Natural Reserve, Ile Nosy Be, Andoany subprefecture, Madagascar Sambirano, Madagascar.

**References**

**Distribution:** AFRICA. Madagascar.

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**Microcharmus sabineae** Lourenço, 1996


**Holotype:** δ (MNHN), Massif Marojezy, 600 m, Madagascar Est, Madagascar.

**References**

**Distribution:** AFRICA. Madagascar.