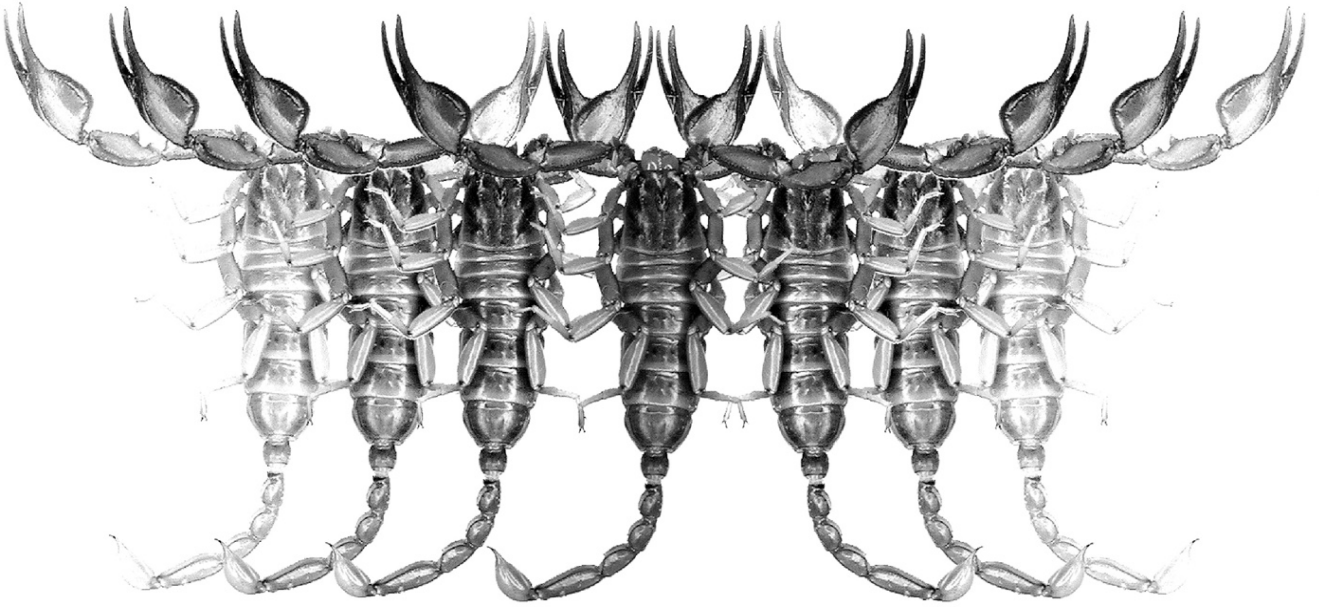


Euscorpius

Occasional Publications in Scorpiology



**An anomaly of chelicera in
Scorpio kruglovi Birula, 1910
(Scorpiones: Scorpionidae)**

Ersen Aydın Yağmur, Mehmet Sait Kılıç & Ömer Yılmaz

June 2021 — No. 335

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Publication date: 24 June 2021

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:0D023343-31B5-485A-9435-42357F36EC83>

An anomaly of chelicera in *Scorpio kruglovi* Birula, 1910 (Scorpiones: Scorpionidae)

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Summary

An anomaly in cheliceral dentition of the fixed finger is recorded in the scorpion *Scorpio kruglovi* Birula, 1910. This rare teratological anomaly herein is described and illustrated.

Introduction

Anomalies that occur during embryonic development cause teratologic disorders in scorpions. These anomalies include deformations (malformations), duplications, division or fusion, or absence of scorpion body parts. Very common are duplications that were reported for prosoma (Berland, 1913); pedipalp (Karataş & Kürtüllü, 2006); pectinal organs (Teruel & Baldazo-Monsivaiz, 2015); and especially for metasoma (Berland, 1913; Campos, 1918; Sergent, 1946; Vachon, 1952, 1953; Briseño, 1963; Williams, 1971; Sissom & Shelley, 1995; Lourenço & Hypolite, 2010; Seiter & Teruel, 2014) as well as vesicle and aculeus (Shulov & Amitai, 1955; Vachon, 1972; Galvis & Flórez-D., 2016; Salabi et al., 2021). Various reported malformations include fusion on carapace and tergites (Armas, 1976); division or fusion in tergites (Teruel, 2003; Mattoni, 2005); pedipalp fusion (Cao & Solórzano, 1991); leg malformation (Armas, 1977); pectinal malformation (Ayrey, 2011; Šarić & Tomić, 2020), and pedipalp malformation (Mattoni, 2005; Graham, 2006; Jahanifard et al., 2008). Also, Jahanifard et al. (2008) reported vesicle malformation; David (2012), leg absence; and Teruel (2003), pedipalp, tergite, and cheliceral anomalies.

Scorpio maurus kruglovi was described by Birula (1910) from Deir ez-Zor, Syria (upper Euphrates). This taxon was first reported from Turkey (as *S. fuscus kruglovi* Birula, 1910) by Roewer (1943) from the Amanos Mountains (now Hatay Province). Its existence in the Hatay Province was confirmed by Talal et al. (2015) who also elevated this subspecies to species level as *Scorpio kruglovi* Birula, 1910.

Material and Methods

The adult female of *Scorpio kruglovi* (Figs. 1–2) was collected from Kale Village, İskenderun, Hatay Province, Turkey (36°17'37"N 35°47'34"E, 94 m a. s. l., 01 May 2007, leg. H.

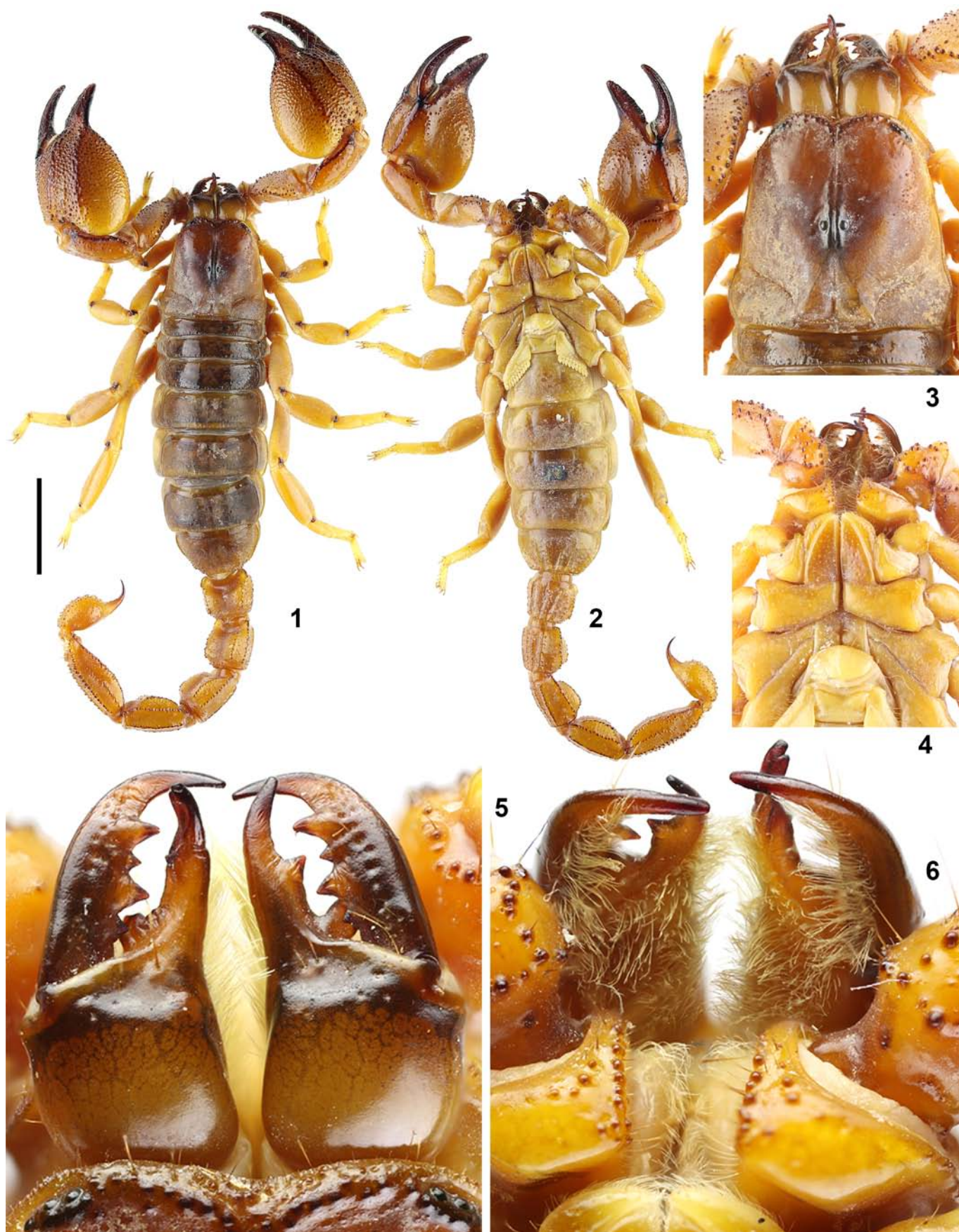
Koç, AZMM/Sco-2007:1). It is preserved in 75% ethanol and deposited in AZMM (Alaşehir Zoological Museum, Manisa Celal Bayar University, Alaşehir, Manisa, Turkey). Identification of specimen was done after Birula (1910) and Talal et al. (2015).

Results and Discussion

The examined specimen has abnormal dentition of the fixed finger of its left chelicera whereas that on the right chelicera is normal (Figs. 3–6). Both chelicerae have normal dentition of the movable finger, and normally developed tibiae.

Vachon (1963) formally established a nomenclature for identifying various denticles (also called “teeth”; Hjelle, 1990; Sissom, 1990) of scorpion chelicera. The dentition differs in the movable vs fixed finger; denticles can be present on the cutting edge and on the surface. Soleglad & Fet (2003) explained that “The cheliceral fixed finger has only one denticulate cutting edge, which we refer to in this paper as the dorsal edge”. The fixed finger of chelicera (tarsus) has four denticles, from base to tip: basal (*b*), median (*m*), subdistal (*sd*), and distal (*d*) (Vachon, 1963; Hjelle, 1990; Sissom, 1990). The basal (*b*) and median (*m*) denticles usually form a bicuspid, in which the denticles can be more or less divided (Hjelle, 1990, fig. 2.7; Sissom, 1990, fig. 3.1; Soleglad & Fet, 2003, figs. 56–63, dorsal edge depicted from ventral aspect).

Only one case of a cheliceral anomaly so far has been recorded (but not illustrated) in scorpions by Teruel (2003) in *Lychas obsti* Kraepelin, 1913 (family Buthidae). The abnormal specimen had only one denticle on the ventral (or internal; Sissom, 1990) surface of the fixed finger of left chelicera (typical for the genus *Lychas*) but two denticles on the right chelicera. These denticles are absent in the family Scorpionidae (and the entire parvorder Lurida; Soleglad & Fet, 2003) where the ventral surface of the fixed finger is smooth. Our observations in *Scorpio kruglovi* refer to the four denticles of the cutting edge.



Figures 1–6: *Scorpio kruglovi*, female. **Figures 1–2.** Dorsal (1) and ventral (2) views. **Figures 3–6.** Carapace (3), coxosternal area (4), and chelicerae in dorsal (5) and ventral (6) views. Scale bar: 10 mm (1–2).

In the studied abnormal specimen of *S. kruglovi*, the left chelicera has a normal movable finger with fully developed dentition. However, in its fixed finger all four denticles are abnormal (Figs. 3–6). Of the four fundamental dorsal edge denticles, the basal (*b*) and median (*m*) denticles are completely fused (compare to the right chelicera with a normal bicuspid found in *Scorpio*). The subdistal denticle (*sd*) is very weakly developed and represented by a small granule. The distal denticle (*d*) is short, slightly curved, and slightly flattened. It is also slightly bifurcated at the tip, which resembles the structure of the movable cheliceral finger where the tip is normally bifurcated.

Cheliceral dentition provides an important taxonomic set of characters for scorpions (Vachon, 1963; Solegad & Fet, 2003), and any malformations are of a special interest as they might reflect changes in specific developmental genes. For instance, the degree of fusion of basal (*b*) and median (*m*) denticles in a bicuspid varies in different taxonomic groups. This variation ranges to a considerable fusion, e.g., in some Vaejovidae (see Solegad & Fet, 2003, fig. 62; Solegad & Fet, 2008, figs. 115–116) where the depth of the separate denticles is 30% or less of the bicuspid. The observed malformation in *Scorpio*, therefore, continues the trend of fusion found in some scorpion taxa (assuming it is a developmental abnormality and not a result of a damage).

According to Galvis & Flórez-D. (2016), malformations of important structures such as chelicera, chela, or telson, may affect the prey capture efficiency and they are relatively less common. The *Scorpio kruglovi* specimen that we examined is an adult female in good condition, and well developed. This indicates that the cheliceral anomaly has not prevented feeding (Fig. 1 and 2), and that it has could feed well using one chelicera.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Halil Koç (Sinop University, Sinop, Turkey) for collecting the discussed specimen, Victor Fet, František Kovařík and two anonymous reviewers for their comments.

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