

One more new species of *Lychas* Koch, 1845 (Chelicerata, Scorpiones, Buthidae) from Sri Lanka

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(With 8 figures)

Abstract

A further new species of scorpion belonging to the genus *Lychas*, *L. ceylonensis* sp. n., is described, based on a single male collected in Giritale, Sri Lanka. The new species is the second taxon in the genus *Lychas* reported from Sri Lanka. Previously only *Lychas srilankensis* Lourenço, 1997 was known from the island.

Introduction

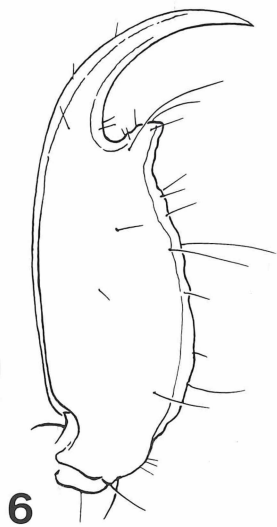
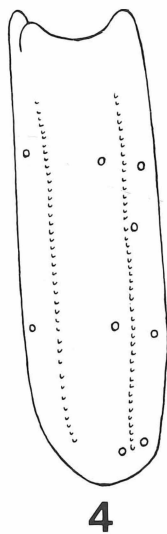
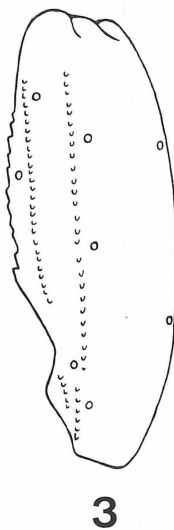
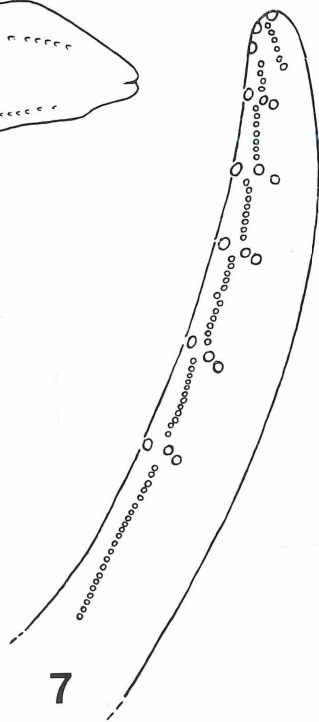
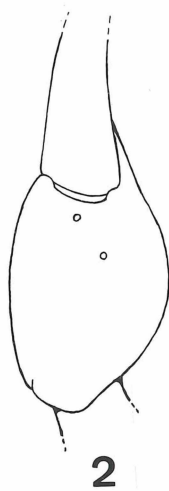
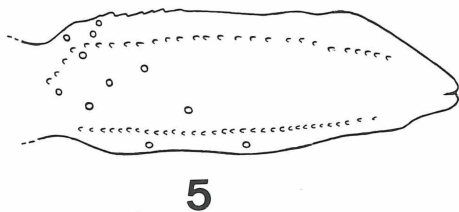
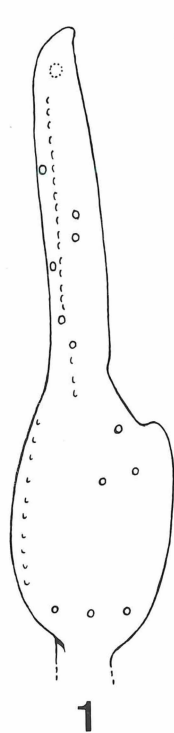
In a recent publication by Lourenço (1997) a new species belonging to the genus *Lychas* Koch was described from Sri Lanka. This was the first known species of that genus reported from the island, although a specimen of *Lychas* sp. was cited by Vachon (1982) in his account of the scorpions of Sri Lanka. The latter was a first instar specimen collected at Palatupana near the entrance to the Yala National Park. At the same time as Lourenço's (1997) publication appeared, another paper was published by Kovarik (1997), in which a complete revision of the genus *Lychas* was proposed. In this paper Kovarik indicated that approximately 35 species had been described, distributed over a wide range extending from Australia and the Indo-Malayan region, to southern China, the Himalayan region and parts of Africa. However, no species from Sri Lanka were indicated.

While examining a small collection of scorpions belonging to the junior author, we found an adult male of *Lychas* which, after careful examination, turned out to be a new species, the second such a taxon recorded.

Description

Lychas ceylonensis sp. n.
(Figs 1 - 7)

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype male: Sri Lanka, Giritale, near to a freshwater lake; under rotten wood, 9 March 1992, coll. N. Haug. Deposited in the Zoologisches Museum Hamburg (ZMH Reg. No. A13/99).



ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is derived from the old name of Sri Lanka (Ceylon), the country in which the scorpion was found.

Description (based on holotype). The morphometric measurements are presented below.

C o l o r a t i o n. Basically yellowish, symmetrically marbled with dark brown, producing an overall spotted appearance. Prosoma: carapace yellowish and heavily spotted, except the anterior margin; eyes surrounded by black pigment. Mesosoma: yellowish with confluent brown spots over all tergites. Metasoma: segments I to IV yellowish, with small round brown spots ventrally and laterally; very diffuse triangular spots dorsally. Segment V reddish yellow; anterior portion yellowish. Vesicle reddish yellow with the base of the aculeous yellowish and the extremity reddish. Venter light yellow with a few darker spots on sternite V. Chelicerae yellowish with variegated brown spots; bases of fingers dark; fingers yellowish with black spots. Pedipalps: yellowish with several diffuse spots on the femur and tibia; chelae less densely spotted; fingers yellowish. Legs yellowish with dark brown diffuse spots on the first four segments.

M o r p h o l o g y. Carapace moderately granular; anterior margin with a feeble median concavity. Anterior median superciliary, and posterior median keels feeble. All furrows feeble to moderate. Median ocular tubercle distinctly anterior to the centre; median eyes separated by one and half ocular diameter. Three pairs of lateral eyes. Sternum subtriangular. Mesosoma: tergites moderately granular. Median keel present in all tergites; presence of two other lateral keels in all tergites. Tergite VII pentacarinat. Venter: genital operculum divided longitudinally. Pectines: pectinal tooth count 25-25; basal middle lamellae of the pectines not dilated. Sternites smooth with elongated stigmata; VII without keels. Metasoma: segments I and II with 10 keels, crenulate; segments III and IV with 8 keels; segment V with 5 keels. Intercarinal spaces feebly granular. Telson with one ventral keel and two lateral furrows; aculeus long and moderately curved; subaculear tooth very strong and more to rhomboid. Cheliceral dentition characteristic of the family Buthidae (Vachon 1963). Pedipalps: femur pentacarinat; tibia with seven keels; chelae with some keels but moderately crenulate; internal face of tibia with a few spinoid granules; all faces moderate to feebly granular. Movable fingers with 7 oblique rows of granules; seventh row at the extremity of the fingers, not formed by 3 or 4 accessory granules. Trichobothriotaxy: orthobothriotaxy $A-\beta$ (Vachon 1973, 1975). Legs: tarsus with very numerous median fine setae ventrally. Legs III and IV with one strong tibial spur and moderate pedal spurs.

M e a s u r e m e n t s (in mm): Carapace: length 4.3, anterior width 2.9, posterior width 4.4; Metasomal segment I: length 3.4, width 2.5; Metasomal segment V: length 6.1, width 2.4, depth 2.2; Vesicle: width 1.7, depth 1.2; Pedipalp: femur length 3.8, femur width 1.2, tibia length 4.6, tibia width 1.6, chelae length 6.6, chelae width 1.8, chelae depth 1.7; Movable finger: length 3.9.

Figs 1 - 7. *Lychas ceylonensis* sp. n. (holotype ♂): 1- 5, trichobothriotaxy: **1**, **2**- chelae, external and ventral views; **3**, **4**- tibia, dorsal and external views; **5**- femur, vesicle dorsal view; **6**- vesicle; **7**- dentate margin of movable finger.

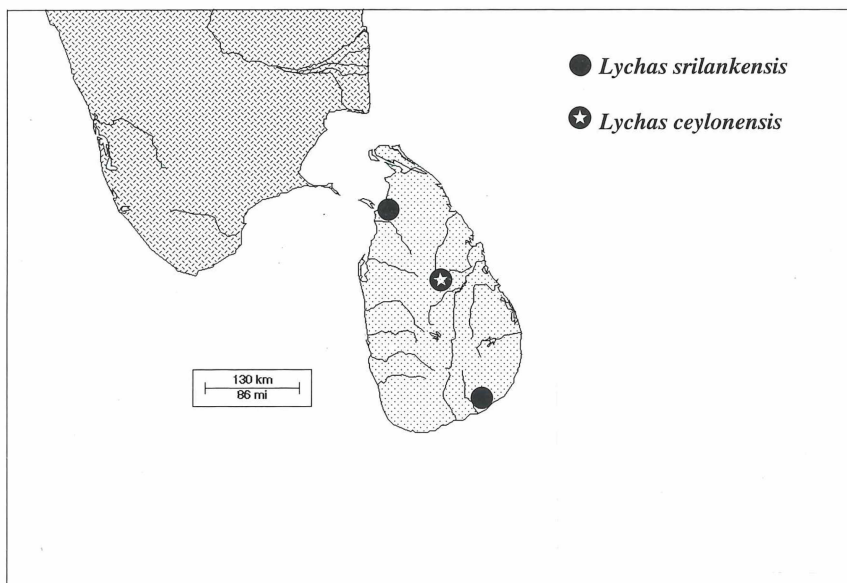


Fig. 8. Type localities of *Lychas srilankensis* Lourenço and *L. ceylonensis* sp. n. in Sri Lanka.

TAXONOMICAL POSITION. The new species shows affinities with *Lychas srilankensis* Lourenço, 1997, also known from Sri Lanka. It can, however, be distinguished from *L. srilankensis* by : (i) the presence of much stronger granulation over the carapace and tergites, (ii) the presence of 7 oblique rows of granules on the movable finger of pedipalps, instead of 6 as in *L. srilankensis*. The row of granules on the extremity of the finger is normal, and not represented merely by 3 or 4 accessory granules as it is in *L. srilankensis*. Moreover, the habitats of both species are different : *L. srilankensis* comes from a humid region, whereas *L. ceylonensis* sp. n. was found in a dry formation in the centre of the island.

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