

First record of the scorpion genus *Oiclus* Simon 1880 (Scorpionidae: Diplocentrinae) from St.-Barthelemy, Lesser Antilles

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The scorpion subfamily Diplocentrinae in the Antilles is represented by four genera, two of which are endemic from this subregion: *Cazierius* Francke 1978 and *Oiclus* Simon 1880; the latter is currently monotypic, and its geographical distribution is restricted to some Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles (Francke, 1978; Armas, 1987; Sissom & Fet, 2000). Since the revision of Francke (1978), two subspecies are recognized: *Oiclus purvesii purvesii* (Becker 1880) from Antigua, Barbuda, Île des Saintes, Montserrat and Nevis, and *Oiclus purvesii sabae* Francke 1978 from Saba; another population was recorded from St. Kitts, but it was regarded as a hybrid between these two subspecies (Francke, 1978). Since then, only a few mentions of *Oiclus* have been published (Armas, 1987, 2005; Kovařík, 1997; Sissom & Fet, 2000), but no new information has been added, except for the short phylogenetic considerations of Prendini (2000), who supported Francke's 1978 original point of view that *Oiclus* is closely related to *Cazierius*.

Recently, on October 16th, 2005, two adult females belonging to *Oiclus* were collected in Saline district, (St.-Barthelemy), which represents a new island record for this genus (figs. 1-2). According to Karl Questel (*in litt.*, November 9th, 2005), both scorpions were found hidden in small crevices under stones in a wet ravine of difficult access, at 108 m about sea level. One specimen was deposited in the first author's personal collection (RTO), the other in Colección Nacional de Arácnidos (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

As the taxonomy of this genus is currently being updated, with important changes to be added soon (R. Teruel, unpublished data), we prefer not to assign the St.-Barthelemy population formally to a determined species or subspecies. Nevertheless, it is worth to mention here that its direct comparison to additional *Oiclus* material (see below for details) revealed that both females match *O. p. purvesii* in pectinal tooth count (6/6), pedipalp chela shape (relatively slender) and tarsal spine formula (3/3:4/4:5/5:5/5), but differ conspicuously in size and sculpture of the pedipalps, suggesting that this population possibly represents a separate taxon.

Finally, the authors wish to thank Karl Questel (St.-Barthelemy), for providing the specimens upon which the present record is based, detailed information about their habitat conditions, and permission to use his photo included herein as figure 1. Also, we are indebted to Luis F. de Armas, who kindly gave one of us (RT) all facilities to study additional specimens of *Oiclus* he had in loan from the collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ, Harvard, Massachusetts, USA) and the Montana State University (MSU, Montana, USA).

Additional specimens examined

***Oiclus purvesii purvesii*:** ANTIGUA: English Harbour, south end of the island; January, 1918; R. Forrest; one adult female and one juvenile male (MCZ, filemaker no. 12422). MONTSERRAT: Cassara Ghant; May 31th, 2002, K. Marske; one adult female (MSU).

***Oiclus* sp.:** ST. KITTS: St. Thomas Middle Island Parish: Wingfield National Park: Peter Manning Trail (in rotten log); July 4th, 2003; M. A. Ivie; one juvenile female (MSU).

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Fig. 1: Females of *Oiclus* sp. from St.-Barthelemy, still alive a few days after being collected (photo by Karl Questel).

Fig. 2: Geographical occurrence of *Oiclus purvesii purvesii* (■), *Oiclus purvesii sabae* (□), supposedly hybrid population of *O. p. purvesii* x *O. p. sabae* (⊕), and *Oiclus* sp. (⊕).