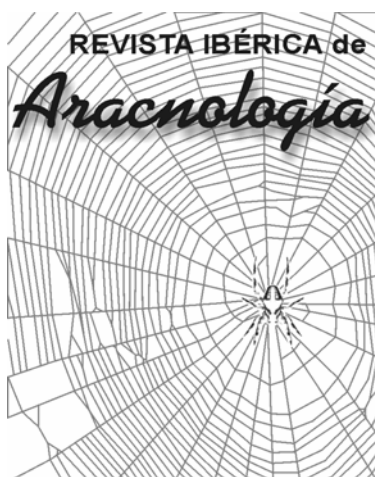




NOTA BREVE:

First report of *Teuthraustes amazonicus* (Simon, 1880) (Scorpiones: Chactidae) in Colombia

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**First report of
Teuthraustes amazonicus (Simon, 1880)
(Scorpiones: Chactidae) in Colombia**

Ricardo Botero-Trujillo & Eduardo Flórez-Daza

Abstract:

The first report of the scorpion *Teuthraustes amazonicus* in Colombia is herein presented.

Key words: Scorpiones, *Teuthraustes*, *T. amazonicus*, Colombia, Department of Amazonas.

Primera cita de *Teuthraustes amazonicus* (Simon, 1880) (Scorpiones: Chactidae) en Colombia

Resumen:

Se presenta el primer registro del escorpión *Teuthraustes amazonicus* en Colombia

Palabras clave: Scorpiones, *Teuthraustes*, *T. amazonicus*, Colombia, Departamento del Amazonas.

The genus *Teuthraustes* Simon, 1878 (Chactidae) is a group of scorpions occurring on the north-Neotropical region, whose representative species are known to occur 11 in Ecuador, five in Venezuela, two in Peru, two in Brazil (Sissom, 2000) and one in Colombia (Lourenço, 1995, 1997; Sissom, 2000). Of the 20 known species of this genus, *Teuthraustes amazonicus* (Simon, 1880) is up to date the only one with populations in more than one country. It has been reported for Pebas, Peru (Lourenço, 1995; Sissom, 2000) and for the west of the State of Amazonas, Brazil (Sissom, 2000; Lourenço, 2002a, 2002b).

After a recent revision of scorpion material deposited at the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales (ICN-MHN) of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá) and the Museo de la Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (MPUJ, Bogotá), we found four specimens of *T. amazonicus* from the Colombian Amazonia. The scorpions were collected in forested areas close to the city of Leticia (Department of Amazonas), which is located on the left margin of the Amazonas river at 4° 12' 55" S and 69° 56' 26" W (82 m above sea level). The city presents an annual median precipitation of 3248 mm, and a median temperature of 25.8 °C (IGAC, 1996). The vegetational components surrounding the city are characteristic of Amazonian Rain Forest.

This finding is interesting given that *Teuthraustes guerdouxi* Lourenço, 1995 from the northern Andes was supposed to be the only representative of this genus in the country (Lourenço, 1995, 1997; Sissom, 2000). It is important to note that the report of *Teuthraustes carmelinae* Scorza, 1954 in Colombia (Paz, 1978) was the consequence of a misidentification (junior author's personal observation).

T. amazonicus may be distinguished from the other Amazonian species of the genus as its adults are more than 45 mm in total length, the carapace surface is moderately granulated and the keels of metasomal segments are feeble (Lourenço, 2002a, 2002b). According to Lourenço (2002b), other morphological features of this species are: general coloration brownish, tergite VII with four vestigial keels, I to VI without them, femur of pedipalp with three keels, two pairs of lateral eyes, spiracles oval elongate, and 5 to 9 pectinal teeth (for a more complete diagnosis see Lourenço [2002b]).

Although the material was not compared with any individual from Brazil or Peru, the known distribution of this species in Brazil supports its presence in the city of Leticia. This is, taking into account that in this country the species is known from the area of Tabatinga (Lourenço, 2002b), locality that is adjacent to Leticia in the frontier between the two countries. With the new locality for *T. amazonicus*, the number of countries where this species occurs is herein elevated to three (Fig. 1).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: ICN-610, Leticia, km 20 way Tarapaca, 100m, 2-XI-2002, ♀; ICN-454, Leticia, km 11 way Tarapaca, 100m, 8-XI-2001, ♂; ICN-455, Leticia, km 18 way Tarapaca, 100m, 20-XI-2001, ♀; MPUJ-SCO-032, Leticia, Indigenous Community Monifue Amena, Chagra, 70m, X-2003, juvenile ♀.

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Fig 1: Known distribution of *Teuthraustes amazonicus*. Previous records in Peru and Brazil (■); New report for Leticia, Colombia (▲)

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