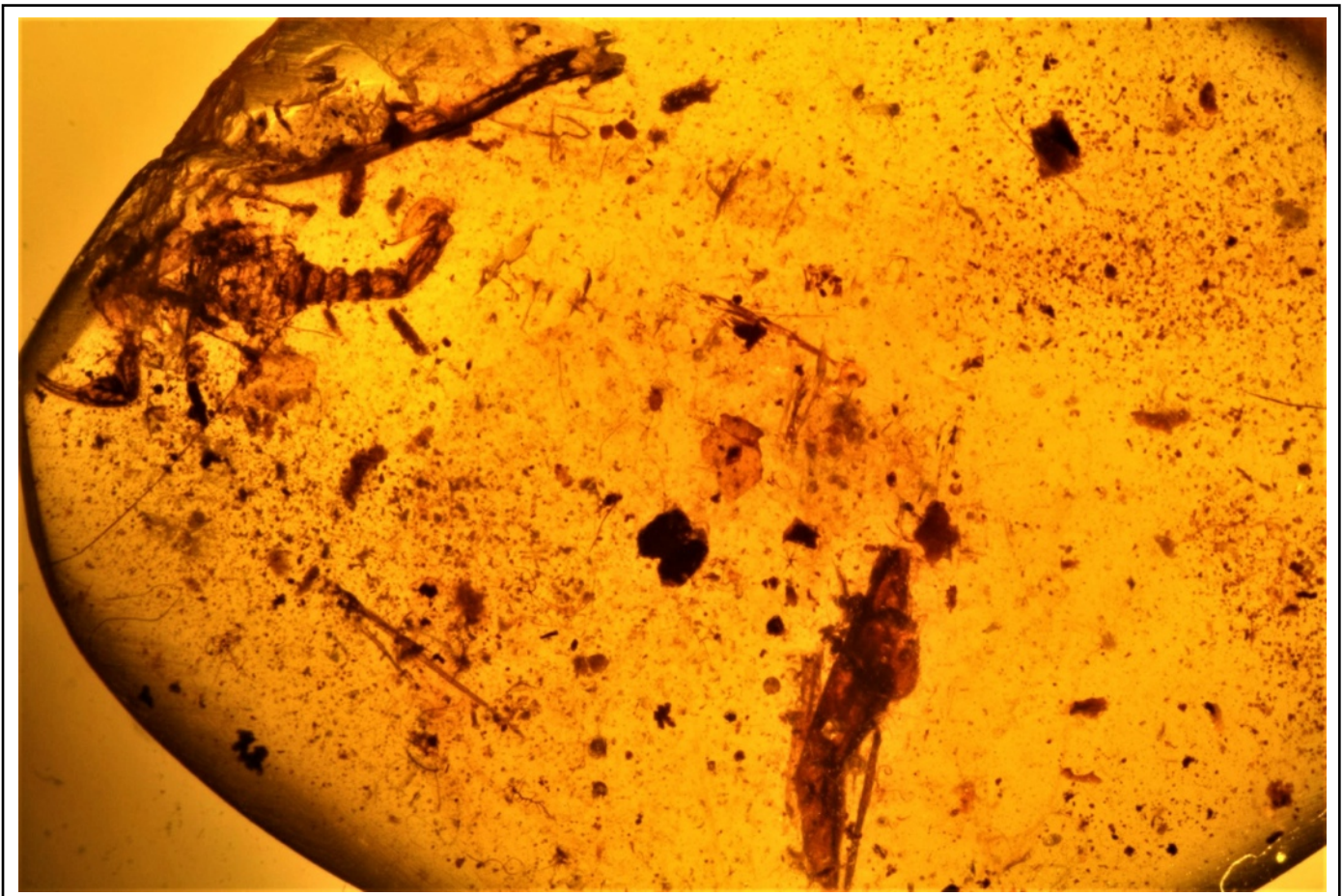


Faunitaxys

*Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique
morphologique et moléculaire*



Volume 9
Numéro 30

Septembre 2021

ISSN : 2269 - 6016
Dépôt légal : Septembre 2021

Faunitaxys

*Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique
morphologique et moléculaire*

ZooBank : <http://zoobank.org/79A36B2E-F645-4F9A-AE2B-ED32CE6771CC>

Directeur de la publication, rédacteur, conception graphique et PAO:

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***Faunitaxys* est indexé dans / *Faunitaxys* is indexed in:**

- Zoological Record

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Imprimée sur les presses de SPEED COPIE

6, rue Tréfilerie, F- 42100 Saint-Etienne

Imprimé le 28 septembre 2021

Early Cretaceous Burmite fossils of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and description of a particular new species

WILSON R. LOURENÇO (1) & JÜRGEN VELTEN (2)

(1) Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Sorbonne Universités, Institut de Systématique, Evolution, Biodiversité (ISYEB), UMR7205-CNRS, MNHN, UPMC, EPHE, CP 53, 57 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France. - wilson.lourenco@mnhn.fr

- ZooBank : <http://zoobank.org/58448BD6-79D7-46CE-AFDD-91EFF2B7D4EF>

(2) Uhlandstr 9 a, 67292 Kirchheimbolanden, Germany.

- ZooBank : <http://zoobank.org/F7A6D8F4-5139-4A78-BC39-AB21BA60FE1C>

Keywords:

Scorpiones;
Chaerilobuthidae;
fossil;
new species;
Chaerilobuthus;
meggeri;
Cretaceous;
Burmese amber;
Myanmar;
description.

Abstract. – One more new species of fossil scorpion belonging to the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, *Chaerilobuthus meggeri* Lourenço **sp. n.**, is described from early Cretaceous amber of Myanmar (Burma). To present, this is the 11th species of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* to be described among 12 specimens already listed in Burmese amber. One specimen remained as *Chaerilobuthus* sp. This new find attests, once again, to the important degree of diversity among the scorpion fauna found in Burmite amber, and confirms the speciose characteristic of the family Chaerilobuthidae.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2021. – Early Cretaceous Burmite fossils of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and description of a particular new species. *Faunitaxys*, 9(30): 1 – 5.

ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/4A074A21-267A-485E-A5C7-0E016F54470C>

Introduction

In several previous publications it was frequently outlined that scorpions could yet be considered as rare among the arthropods found in any type of amber (Lourenço, 2016a, 2018a,b,c, 2021; Lourenço & Rossi, 2017; Lourenço & Velten, 2020, 2021). Nevertheless, the number of new described taxa increased remarkably in recent years. This is particularly true for specimens found in Cretaceous Burmese amber, mainly due to the increasing commercial availability of this amber during the last 10-15 years. The majority of the elements described belong to two families: Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015 and Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, however, a relevant number of other elements belonging to several distinct families were also the subject of recent studies (Lourenço, 2015a, 2016b; Lourenço & Velten, 2017, 2021).

In this contribution one new species of *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel 2011 is described. The discovery of yet one new element of this family attests to the considerable degree of diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests, and confirms that the family Chaerilobuthidae is one of the most speciose groups present in this Cretaceous fauna. Nevertheless, the increased pace of descriptions brings more and more problems for future identifications, since many species found in Burmese amber show quite similar morphologies. Obviously, some of the first descriptions of new fossil taxa were based only on fragments, as in the case of *Palaeoburmesebuthus grimaldii* Lourenço, 2002 (Lourenço, 2002) or poorly preserved specimens (Lourenço & Rossi 2017), but as more and more taxa will be known for a given group, the quality of the pieces required to justify new

description will necessarily be raised (Lourenço, 2016a, 2021). Moreover, only a complete knowledge of all the fossils previously described will authorise new descriptions with a low rate of misidentifications (Lourenço, 2016a; 2021).

Material and methods

The specimen investigated is preserved in a more or less clear oval piece of yellowish amber that measures 23 x 18 mm and is about 3 mm thick. The scorpion is almost complete; however, one pedipalp is missing. Besides, some characters are not clearly visible mainly disturbed by the presence of numerous vegetal inclusions and dust. A precise examination confirms that the specimen is in reality an exuviae, as already observed for other Burmite scorpions (Lourenço, 2015b; Lourenço & Velten, 2017). Some parts of the exuviae such as the carapace and one chelicera were dislocated and are found next to the main body of the scorpion (see figure 13). Nevertheless, many characters, in both dorsal and ventral view, can be observed and allow detailed investigations. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced using a Wild M5 stereomicroscope and a Leica microscope DMLB, both equipped with a drawing tube (camera lucida) and an ocular micrometer. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations follow Vachon (1974) and morphological terminology mostly follows Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria were definitely recorded only when their bothria (areoles) could be observed. In account of the morphology of the pedipalp, pecten and telson the scorpion is most certainly a male. In the absence, however of the real specimen, it is impossible to define if the exuviation process led to an adult.

Systematic description

Family **Chaerilobuthidae** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Genus ***Chaerilobuthus*** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Chaerilobuthus meggeri Lourenço sp. n.

(Fig. 6-15).

ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/E455CE58-7874-4E75-A04C-BC089FC3A500>

Holotype: A juvenile which in fact corresponds to an exuvia. Considering the morphologies of the pedipalp, pecten and globular telson, the specimen is most certainly a male.

Type locality and horizon: Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name honors Mr Gerd Megger (Freiberg am Neckar, Germany).

Repository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collection of Mr Gerd Megger (Freiberg am Neckar, Germany).

Diagnosis. – General morphology shows similarities with other members of the family Chaerilobuthidae. The following combination of characters can be used to diagnose the new species: Carapace straight anteriorly; median eyes absent and lateral eyes replaced by a large macula. Internal face of pedipalp chela with some strongly marked spinoid granules. A distinct trichobothrial pattern with at least 3 dorsal and 2-3 external trichobothria on femur; 2 dorsal, 1 internal and 2-3 ventral trichobothria on the patella; 2 dorsal, 3 external and one internal trichobothria on chela hand and 6 dorso-external on fixed finger; the internal trichobothrium on chela is observed for the first time. Pecten short and bulky with 6 or 7 teeth; sternum pentagonal; spiracles very small and round; chelicerae with long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with two basal and one median tooth; vesicle strongly globular with a moderately long and very thin aculeus. Pedipalp patella with two sharpened apophysis on the internal face. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps with 6 rows of granules separated by larger accessory granules; tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV.

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is reddish-yellow to reddish-brown with several dark zones on body and appendages; carapace, tergites and sternites reddish-brown; metasomal segments reddish-brown; telson yellow; pedipalps and legs reddish-yellow to reddish-brown. Ventral aspect of the specimen is less well observable; mainly disturbed by the presence of inclusions.

Morphology. – Carapace without granulations, smooth; anterior margin straight. Carinae absent and furrows weak or absent. Median ocular tubercle absent. Absence of lateral eyes which are replaced by a large macula. Sternum pentagonal. Mesosomal tergites almost smooth, as carapace, and with vestigial carinae; tergite VII with five weakly marked carinae. Pecten short and bulky, with 6 or 7 teeth without fulcra. Sternites can be observed but suffered with the dislocation process; almost smooth, with small round spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV almost acarinated; only dorsal carinae are well marked with spinoid granules; segment V with two dorsal carinae equally with spinoid granules; ventral carinae on segments I to V inconspicuous or absent; setation on segments I to V weakly marked. Telson with a strongly globular vesicle totally smooth; aculeus shorter than vesicle but strongly curved; setation weakly marked. Cheliceral dentition not well observable; distal teeth of fixed and movable fingers

long and overlapping for about one third of their length (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalp: Femur with four carinae and a few small spinoid granules on internal face; patella with dorso-internal and ventro-internal carinae well observable; other carinae vestigial; internal face with two sharpened apophysis. Chela with weakly marked carinae; all faces weakly granular, almost smooth; internal face with some small spinoid granules. Fixed and movable fingers with 6 longitudinal rows of small rounded granules, separated by stronger accessory granules; extremity of fingers with one stronger spinoid granule. Trichobothriotaxy: trichobothrial pattern related to those of both buthoid and chaeriloids, types A and B can be observed (Vachon, 1974); see diagnosis for details. Leg tarsi with long, thin ventral setae. Pedal spurs present and moderately marked; tibial spurs absent.

Morphometric values (mm), juvenile holotype.

– *Total length*: 7.52 (including telson).

– *Carapace*: length 1.17, anterior width 0.77, posterior width 0.97.

– *Mesosoma*: length 1.87.

– *Metasomal segments*

I: length 0.37, width 0.70;

II: length 0.40, depth 0.60;

III: length 0.47, depth 0.57;

IV: length 0.57, depth 0.53;

V: length 1.37, depth 0.47.

– *Telson*: length 1.30.

– *Vesicle*: depth 0.54.

– *Pedipalp*

femur length 1.10, width 0.37;

patella length 1.14, width 0.40;

chela length 1.80, depth 0.47;

– *Movable finger*: length 0.90.

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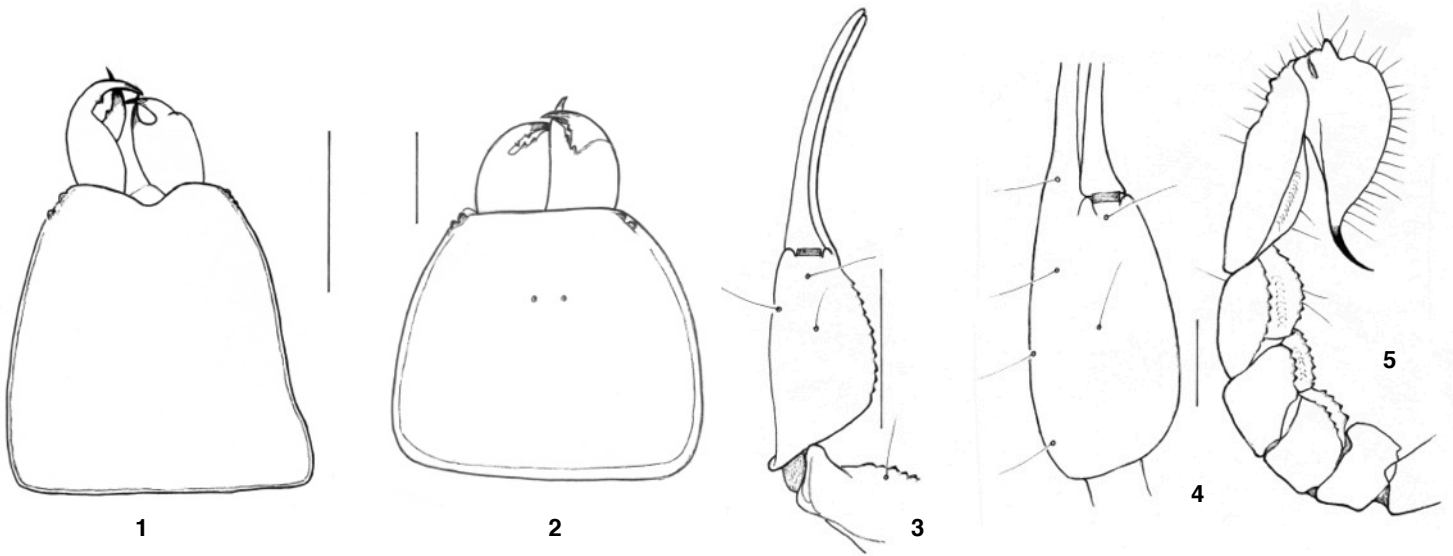


Fig. 1-5. General characteristics of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* (scales = 0.5 mm).

- 1-2) Carapaces of *C. schwarzi* Lourenço, 2015 (1) and *C. hansgeorgmuelleri* Lourenço, 2019 (2) with absence or much reduced median eyes.
 3-4) Ventral aspect of chela, showing two ventral trichobothria, but no internal trichobothria, for *C. schwarzi* (3) and *C. enigmaticus* Lourenço, 2015 (4).
 5) Metasomal segments and telson of *C. enigmaticus*.

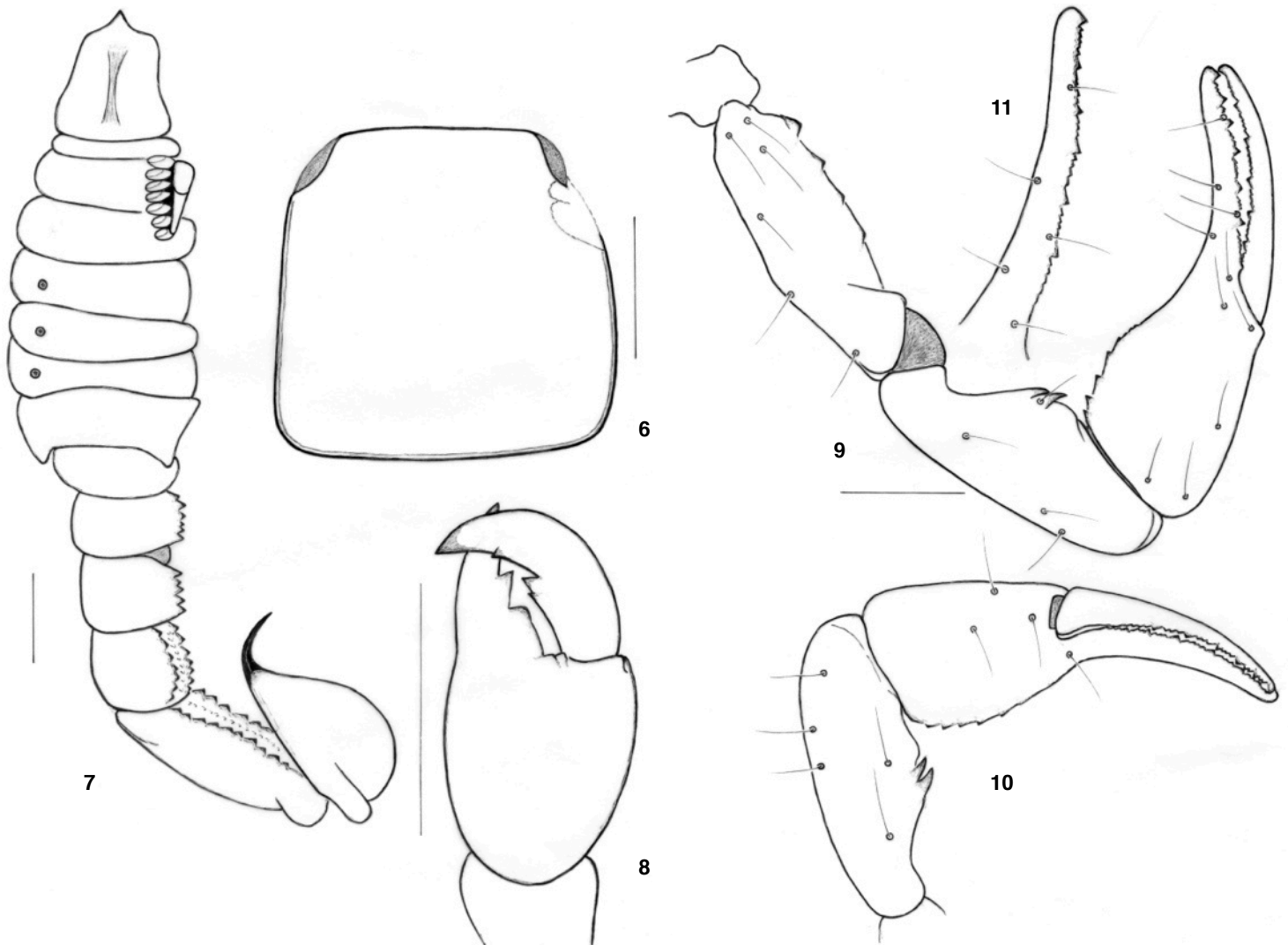


Fig. 6-11. *Chaerilobuthus meggeri* Lourenço sp. n. Male holotype (scales = 0.5 mm).

- 6) Carapace with the presence of maculae on the position of lateral eyes. 7) Ventral aspect showing sternum, sternites with dislocated pecten, metasomal segments and the very globular telson. 8) Chelicera, dorsal aspect.
 9-11) Trichobothrial pattern. 9) Femur, patella and chela, dorsal aspect. 10) Patella and chela, ventral aspect. 11) Fixed finger in detail, showing also granulations on the cutting edge.

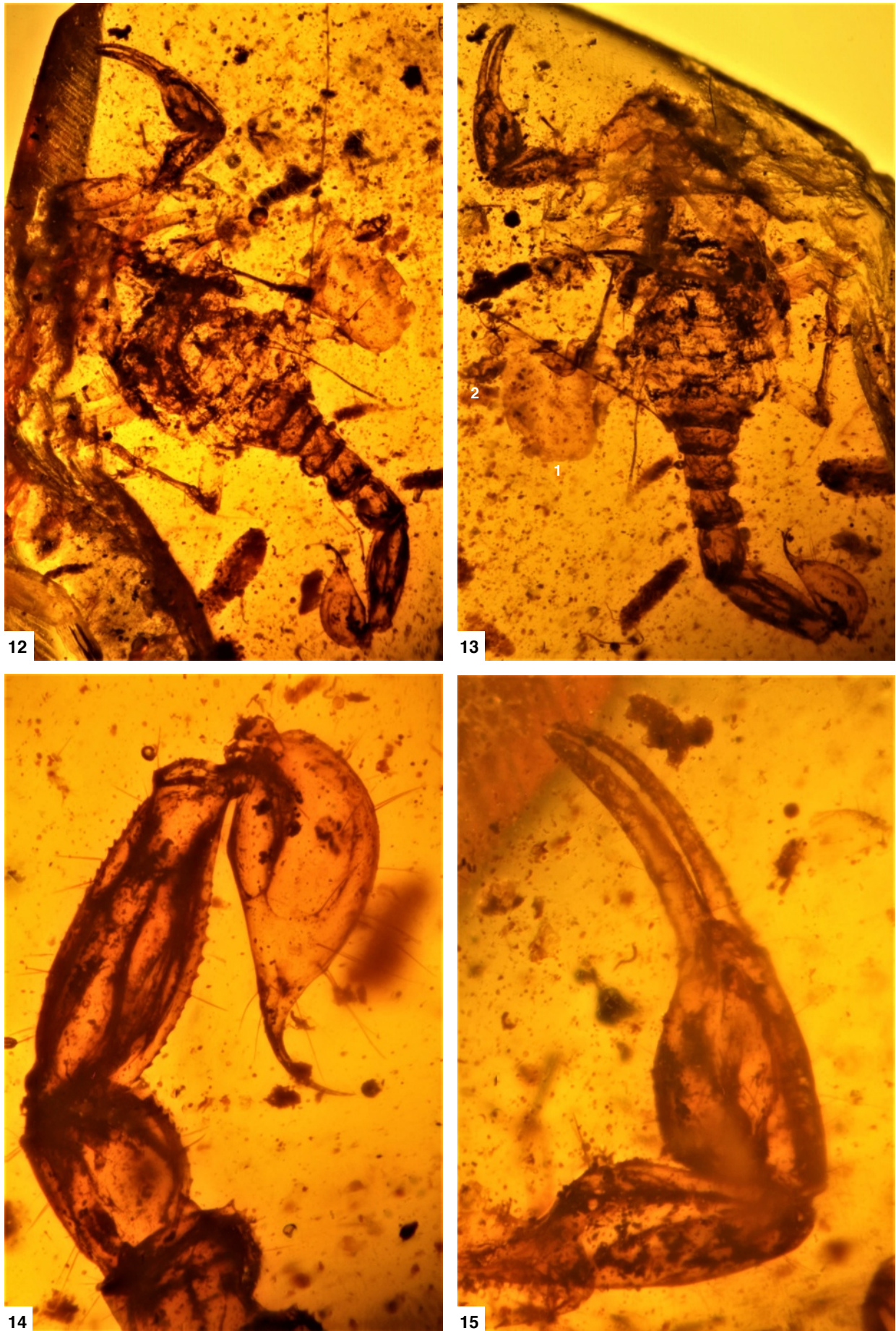


Fig. 12-15. *Chaerilobuthus meggeri* Lourenço **sp. n.** Male holotype.

12-13) Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. To be noticed the dislocated carapace and chelicera (1 and 2).

14) Metasomal segments and telson, lateral aspect. 15) Dorso-lateral aspect of right pedipalp.

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Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2021. – Les fossiles de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de la Birmanie appartenant au genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) et la description d'une espèce particulière. *Faunitaxys*, 9(30) : 1 – 5.

Une nouvelle espèce de scorpion fossile appartenant au genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, *Chaerilobuthus meggeri* Lourenço **sp. n.** est décrite de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar (Birmanie). La nouvelle espèce est la onzième décrite pour le genre *Chaerilobuthus* parmi 12 spécimens déjà répertoriés pour ce type d'ambre. Un spécimen est resté en tant que *Chaerilobuthus sp.* Cette nouvelle découverte atteste, une fois de plus de la grande diversité de la faune de scorpions trouvée dans l'ambre Birman et confirme en outre la richesse en espèces de la famille des Chaerilobuthidae.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, Chaerilobuthidae, fossile, nouvelle espèce, *Chaerilobuthus, meggeri*, Crétacé, ambre Birman, Myanmar, description.

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Faunitaxys

Volume 9, Numéro 30, Septembre 2021

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Illustration de la couverture : *Chaerilobuthus meggeri* Lourenço **sp. n.** dans l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de la Birmanie.

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