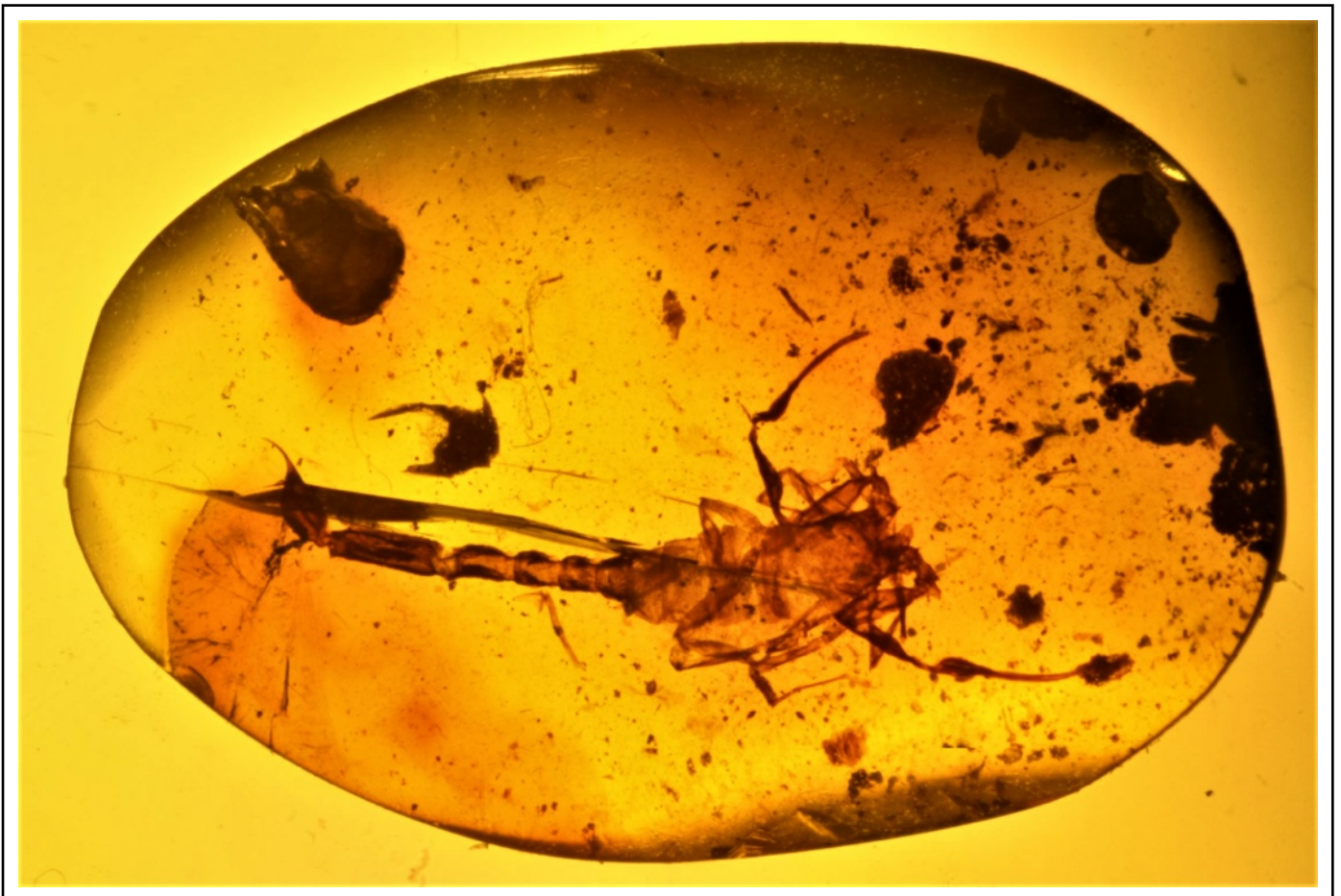


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The remarkable variability of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and description of a new species from Early Cretaceous Burmite

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Chaerilobuthus;
brandti;
Burmite;
variability;
description.

Abstract. – A further new species of fossil scorpion belonging to the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 is described from Early Cretaceous Burmite. *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço **sp. n.**, is the 12th species to be described for this genus confirming its speciose character. The new species equally shows quite distinct characters when compared to the previous known species, confirming therefore the existence of an important morphological variability within *Chaerilobuthus*.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2022. – The remarkable variability of the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) and description of a new species from Early Cretaceous Burmite. *Faunitaxys*, 10(10): 1 – 6.

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Introduction

Starting with the description, twenty years ago, of the first scorpion found in Early Cretaceous Burmite (Lourenço, 2002), a remarkable number of new taxa were discovered and described from this type of amber. The majority of these new taxa concerned two families Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 and Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015 which represent the dominant scorpion fauna in the Cretaceous amber-producing forests of Myanmar. The important availability of pieces containing scorpions in Burmite is largely due to an intense commercial business which took place during the last 15-20 years. Obviously, the increased pace of descriptions can also bring problems for future identifications, since many species found in Burmese amber show similar morphologies. Consequently, 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, 2016, 2021; Lourenço & Velten, 2021). Consequently, only a complete knowledge of all the fossils previously described can authorise new descriptions without the risk of misidentifications (Lourenço, 2016; 2021; Lourenço & Velten, 2021).

Since most historical aspects concerning the evolution of our knowledge about scorpions found in Burmite were the subject of previous publications, these will not be treated here. For further information refer to Lourenço (2016) and Lourenço & Velten (2021). In this contribution one more new species belonging to the genus *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel 2011 is described. The new species is remarkable by presenting a quite distinct morphology in relation to the previously known species of the

genus (Fig. 1). The discovery of this new species confirms the considerable degree of scorpion diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests, but it also brings new evidence about the morphological variability found within the elements of the family Chaerilobuthidae (Lourenço & Velten, 2021).

Material and methods

The specimen investigated is preserved in a more or less clear oval piece of yellow to reddish-yellow amber that measures 17 x 11 mm and is about 3 mm thick. The scorpion is almost complete; however, some parts have been dislocated in the resin. Some characters are not clearly visible, mainly on the ventral aspect, disturbed by the presence of inclusions and dust. A precise examination allows however, the investigation of quite many characters, in both dorsal and ventral aspects. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of 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. Cheliceral notations follow Vachon (1963) and trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974). Other morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded when their bothria (areoles) can be observed, but the presence of other trichobothria are suggested by the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalps, pecten and telson the scorpion is most certainly a male, probably a pre-adult specimen.

Systematic description

Family **Chaerilobuthidae** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

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

Chaerilobuthus brandti Lourenço sp. n.

(Fig. 4-18)

ZooBank: <http://zoobank.org/12F8FAEC-D98D-4732-BCA6-C99E7035D1C5>

Holotype: A male, probably a pre-adult specimen. Type locality and horizon: Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

Name honours. – Mr Torsten Brandt (Forchheim, Germany), for his support to this study.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collection of Mr Torsten Brandt (Forchheim, Germany).

Diagnosis. – General morphology shows similarities with other members of the genus *Chaerilobuthus*, such as the absence of median eyes and the presence of a globular telson vesicle. The following combination of characters can however, be used to diagnose the new species: carapace slightly convex anteriorly; median eyes absent and only one pair of lateral eyes is observed. Pedipalp chela particularly long and narrow; those of the other known species are generally bulk (Fig. 2-3). Trichobothrial pattern with at least 2 dorsal and 3-4 external trichobothria on femur; 2-3 dorsal, 1 internal and 3-4 external trichobothria on the patella; 2 dorsal, 2-3 external trichobothria on chela hand and 5-6 dorso-external on fixed finger. Pectines short and bulky with 7-8

teeth; sternum large and pentagonal; spiracles very small and round to oval; chelicerae with long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with three teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger; the teeth of both fingers match respectively; vesicle strongly globular with a moderately long and very thin aculeus which is shorter than the vesicle. Pedipalp patella has one weak apophysis on the internal face. Fixed and movable fingers of pedipalps extremely thin, with the fixed finger more robust than the movable finger; cutting edges with 6-7 rows of granules separated by slightly spinoid accessory granules. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and IV; pedal spurs strong; tarsi with long and thin setae; tarsi ungues sharp and elongated. Chetotaxy is moderately intense on pedipalps, metasoma and telson.

Description

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

Morphology. – Carapace without granulations, smooth; anterior margin slightly convex. Carinae absent and furrows weak or absent. Median ocular tubercle absent; presence of one pair of minute lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal and large. Mesosomal tergites almost smooth, as carapace with however some minute granulations; one median vestigial carinae; tergite VII with five weakly marked carinae. Pectines short and bulky, with 7-8 teeth and absence of fulcra. Sternites can be observed but remain unclear mainly because of dust; almost smooth, with small round to oval spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV weakly carinated; only dorsal carinae are well marked with spinoid granules; segment V with two dorsal

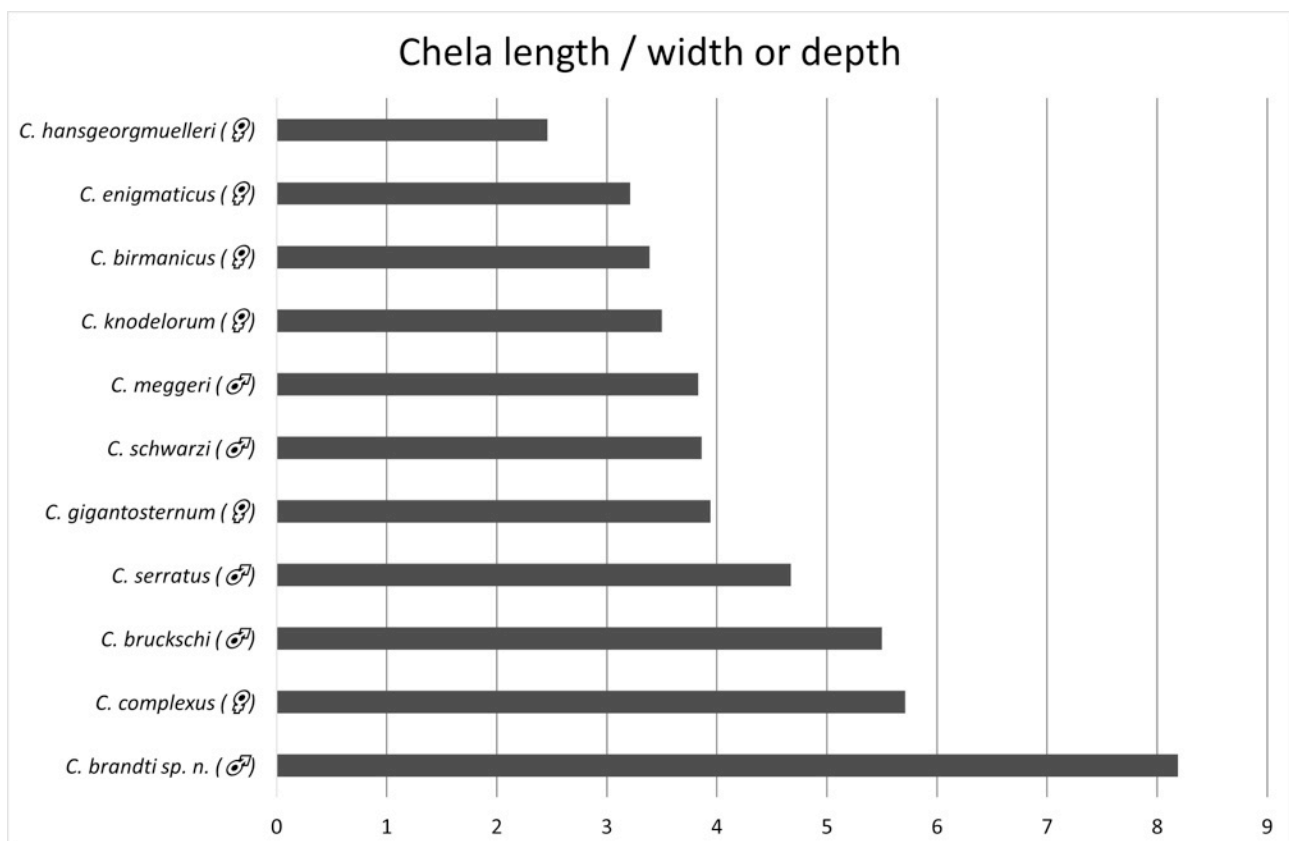


Fig. 1. Graph showing the relationships between chela length vs chela width or depth in the known species of *Chaerilobuthus*. A major difference can be observed for the values of *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço sp. n.

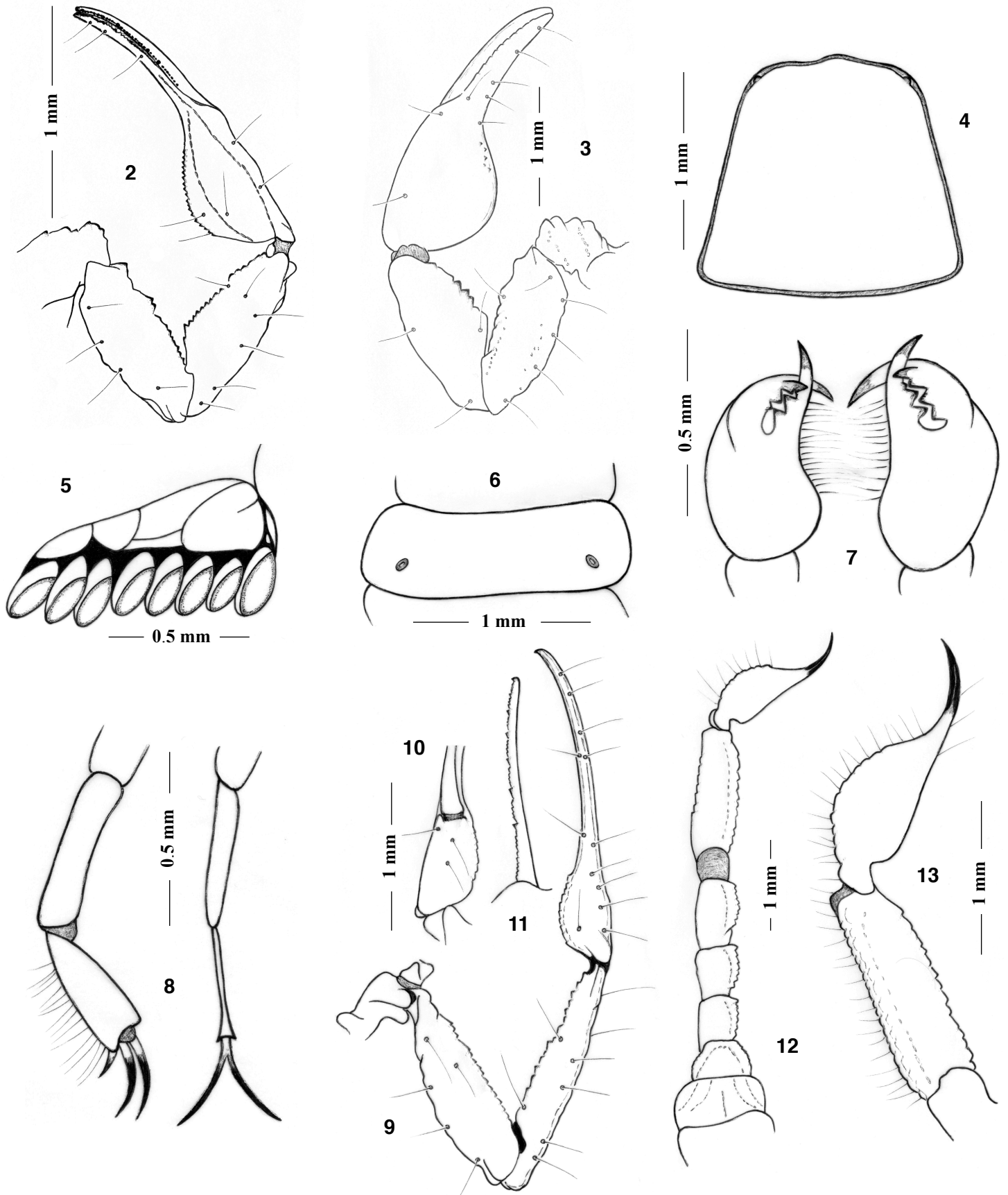


Fig. 2-3. Typical bulk and globular chelae in species of the genus *Chaerilobuthus*.

2. *C. schwarzi* Lourenço, 2015. 3. *C. hansgeorgmuelleri* Lourenço, 2019.

Fig. 4-13. *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço **sp. n.** Male holotype.

4. Carapace with the presence of one pair of lateral eyes. 5. Pecten. 6. Sternite V with spiracles. 7. Chelicerae, dorsal aspect, showing the typical dentition. 8. Tarsi of leg IV showing sharp pedal spur and long unguis. 9-10. Trichobothrial pattern. 9. Right pedipalp, dorsal aspect, showing the femur, patella and chela. 10. Chela, ventral aspect. 11. Fixed finger with the granulations on the cutting edge. 12. Tergite VII of mesosoma, metasoma and telson, latero-dorsal aspect. 13. Metasomal segment V and telson, lateral aspect.

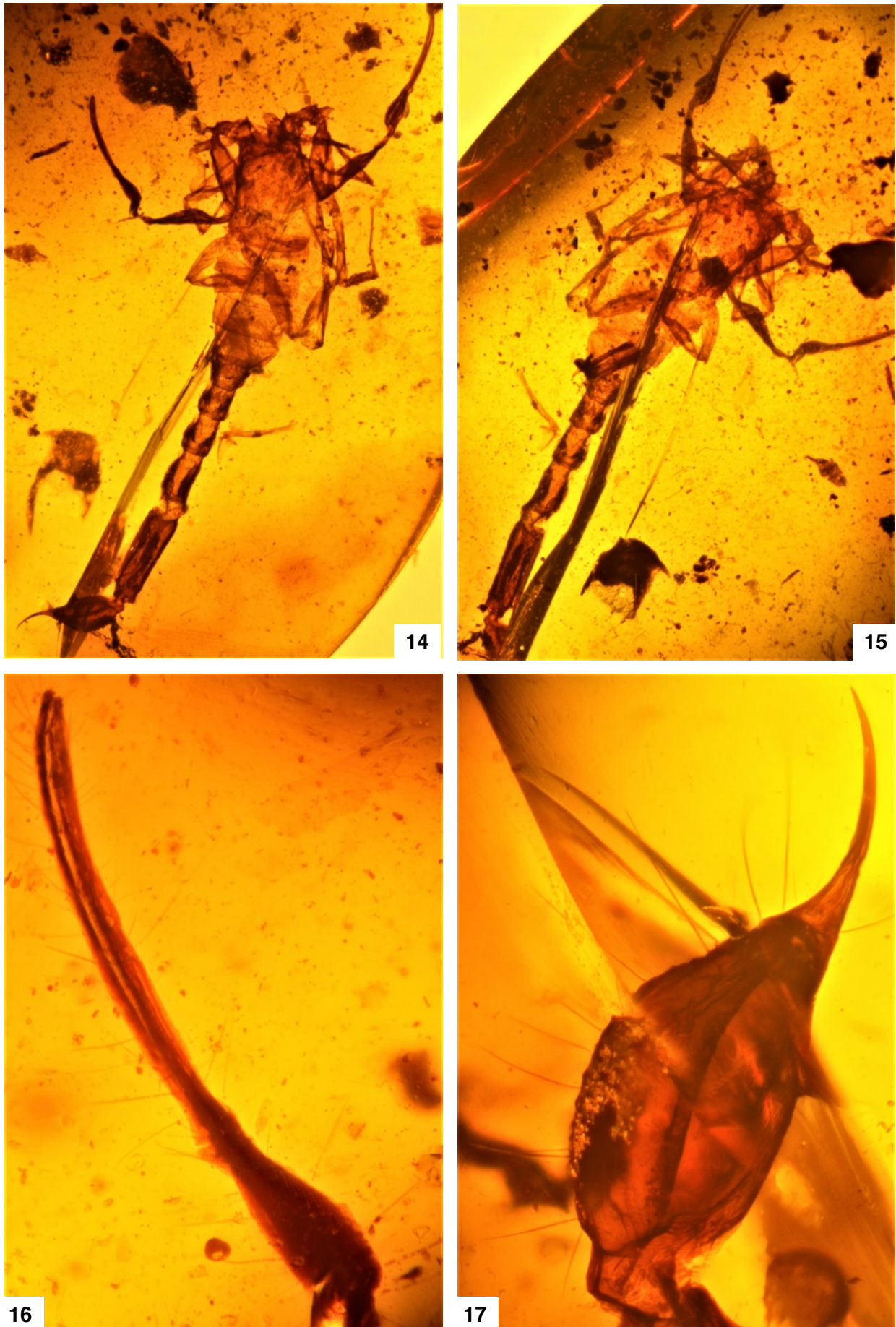
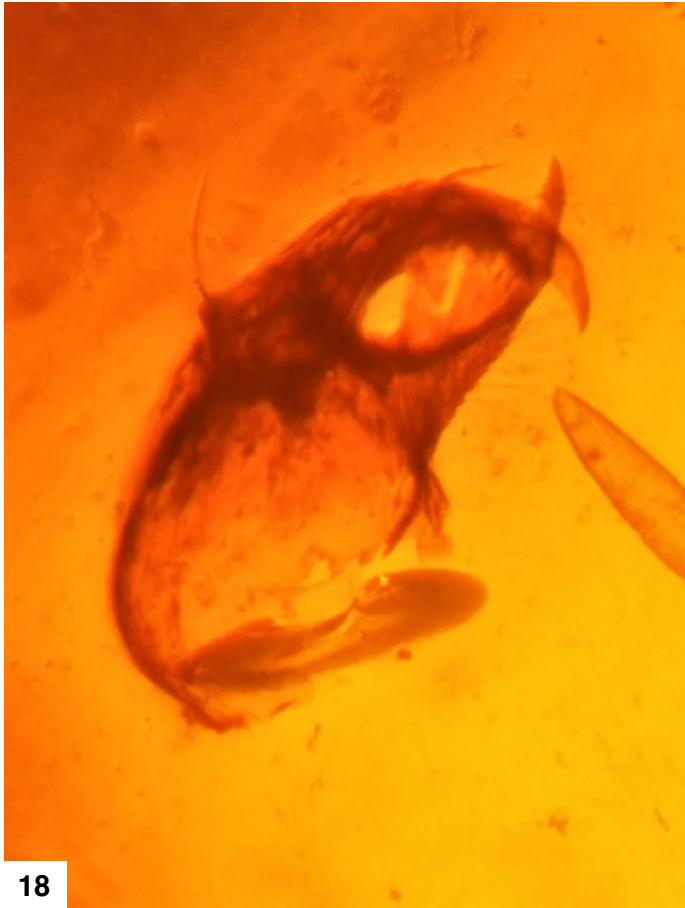
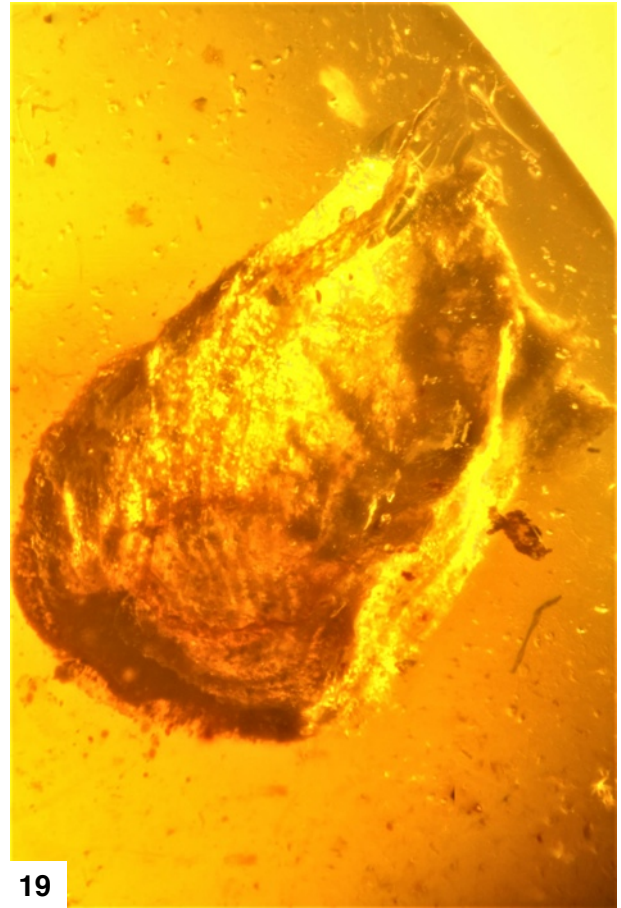


Fig. 14-17. *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço **sp. n.** Male holotype.

14-15. Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. 16. Left Chela, dorso-external aspect. 17. Telson, showing the bulk vesicle.



18



19

Fig. 18. *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço sp. n. Male holotype. Left chelicera, in detail.

Fig. 19. Syninclusion represented by a Piddock (Bivalvia, Pholadidae).

carinae equally with spinoid granules; ventral carinae on segments I to V inconspicuous or absent; all segments are flattened dorso-ventrally; setation on segments I to V moderately marked. Telson with a strongly globular vesicle, flattened dorso-ventrally; some granulations are present on ventral aspect; aculeus shorter than vesicle and moderately curved; setation moderately marked. Cheliceral dentition with long distal teeth which overlap for about one third of their length; movable finger with three teeth and possibly 3-4 teeth on fixed finger; the teeth of both fingers match respectively (Vachon, 1963). Pedipalps: femur with 3-4 carinae and a few small spinoid granules on internal face; patella with dorso-internal, dorso-external and ventro-internal carinae observable; other carinae vestigial; internal face with one small apophysis. Chela with weakly marked carinae; all faces weakly granular, almost smooth; internal face with some small spinoid granules. Fixed and movable fingers with 6-7 longitudinal rows of small rounded granules, separated by spinoid accessory granules; extremity of fingers without a 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 sharp; tibial spurs absent; unguis very long.

Morphometric values (mm), juvenile holotype.

- Total length (including telson) 9.77.
- Carapace: length 1.27, anterior width 0.94, posterior width 1.47.
- Mesosoma: length 2.54.
- Metasomal segments
 - I: length 0.47, width 0.67;
 - II: length 0.47, width 0.54;
 - III: length 0.67, width 0.54;
 - IV: length 0.94, width 0.54;
 - V: length 1.67, width 0.47.

– Telson: length 1.74.

– Vesicle: width 0.85, depth 0.55.

– Pedipalp

- femur length 1.34, width 0.40;
- patella length 1.47, width 0.27;
- chela length 2.21, width 0.27;
- movable finger length 1.47.

Ecological comments

Among the observed syninclusion we have the presence of Piddocks (Bivalvia, Pholadidae). According to Bolotov et al. (2021) this could suggest that the Cretaceous amber-producing forests in Myanmar were located near to some estuarine or freshwater environment (Fig. 19).

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Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2022. – La remarquable variabilité du genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 (Scorpiones: Chaerilobuthidae) et description d'une nouvelle espèce de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de la Birmanie. *Faunitaxyx*, 10(10) : 1 – 6.

Une nouvelle espèce de scorpion fossile appartenant au genre *Chaerilobuthus* Lourenço & Beigel, 2011, est décrite de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar. *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço **sp. n.** est la douzième espèce connue pour ce genre confirmant ainsi sa grande richesse spécifique. La nouvelle espèce présente également des caractères très distincts lorsque comparée aux espèces préalablement connues, et confirme ainsi l'existence d'une importante variabilité morphologique au sein des espèces de *Chaerilobuthus*.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, Chaerilobuthidae, fossile, nouvelle espèce, *Chaerilobuthus, brandti*, Ambre Birman, variabilité, description.

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- Spixiana (Allemagne)
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Illustration de la couverture : *Chaerilobuthus brandti* Lourenço **sp. n.** dans l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de la Birmanie.

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