

A new scorpion species from ancient Lycia

November 8 2013



This image shows a female *Euscorpilus lycius*. Credit: Ersen Aydın Yağmur

Scientists discover and describe a new species of scorpion, *Euscorpilus lycius*, coming from the area of ancient Lycia, nowadays the regions of the Muğla and Antalya Provinces in Southwestern Turkey. With the new discovery, the scorpions from this genus found in the country go up to a total of five known species. The study was published in the open access

journal *ZooKeys*.

Euscorpius is a genus of scorpions, commonly called small wood-scorpions. As their name suggest these scorpions don't impress with a large size, the biggest representative being around 5 cm long. The group is widespread in North Africa and across Europe. *Euscorpius* scorpions are relatively harmless, with poison that has effects similar to a mosquito bite.

The new [species](#) is named after the historical region of Ancient Lycia, which is referenced in Egyptian and Ancient Greek myths. Like the mystical history of the region the new species is rather secretive and can be found mainly in pine at night hidden away in pine forests, crawling on rocks or sitting on stone garden walls. All localities where the species was found were humid and cool, with calcareous stones covered with moss.

The new [scorpion](#) is a relatively small representative, reaching a size ranging between two and two and a half centimeters. The color of the adult representatives is pale, between brown and reddish, with pedipalps, or claws, usually darker than the rest of the body.



This image shows a living male *Euscorpilus lycius* in its natural environment.
Credit: Ersen Aydın Yağmur

"A total of 26 specimens belonging to the [new species](#) were collected from Antalya and Muğla Province, in the south-west of Turkey." explains Dr. Yağmur, the lead author of the study. "Further studies are in progress to understand the quantity and distribution of the different species and populations of the genus *Euscorpilus* in Turkey and their relationship with the Greek populations."



This image shows the natural habitat of the new species near the Faralya Village, Turkey. Credit: Ersen Aydın Yağmur

More information: Yağmur EA, Tropea G, Yeşilyurt F (2013) A new species of *Euscorpius* Thorell, 1876 (Scorpiones, Euscorpiidae) from south western Turkey. *ZooKeys* 348: 29. [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.348.5943](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.348.5943)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: A new scorpion species from ancient Lycia (2013, November 8) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-11-scorpion-species-ancient-lycia.html>

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