

## The First Record of *Hottentotta jayakari* (Pocock, 1895) from Qatar

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**Abstract:** The present note provides the first record of *Hottentotta jayakari* (Pocock, 1895) from Qatar.

**Keywords:** Qatar, *Hottentotta jayakari*, Scorpions.

The scorpion fauna of Qatar remains very little known with no actual records. El-Hennawy (1992) listed eight species of scorpions from Qatar (*Androctonus crassicauda* (Olivier, 1807), *Apistobuthus pterygocercus* Finnegan, 1932, *Buthacus leptochelys* (Ehrenberg, 1829), *Buthacus tadmorensis nigroaculeatus* Levy, *et al.*, 1973 (= *Buthacus macrocentrus* (Ehrenberg, 1828)), *Compsobuthus arabicus* Levy, *et al.*, 1973, *Leiurus quinquestriatus* (Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1829) (= *Leiurus arabicus* Lowe, *et al.*, 2014), *Orthochirus innesi* Simon, 1910, and *Scorpio kruglovi* (Birula, 1910)), all representing extralimital distribution based on the maps proposed by Kinzelbach (1985). On 21.9.2020, a 7cm specimen of *Hottentotta jayakari* was found near Mehairja, Doha (25.316 N, 51.381 E) and was photographed while alive (Figure 1). The area is under development with gravel, rocks substratum, and few scattered vegetation. This record represents the first of *H. jayakari* for the State of Qatar.

*Hottentotta jayakari* (Pocock, 1895) has a wide range of distribution extending across the Arabian Peninsula, covering Oman (Kovařík, 2007), Saudi Arabia (Hendrixson, 2006; Al-Asmari, *et al.*, 2013), The United Arab Emirates (Feulner, 1998; Hendrixson, 2006), and Yemen (Al-Safadi, 1992; Hendrixson, 2006), in addition to Iraq (Lourenço and Qi, 2007) and Iran

(Navidpour, 2012). Mohedano *et al.* (2014) and Abu Baker and Yamaguchi (2017) recovered undetermined scorpion remains from pellets of Pharaoh Eagle Owl, *Bubo ascalaphus* and the Little Owl *Athene noctua* from Qatar. The epidemiology of scorpion stings was investigated in Qatar, and a total of 111 cases of scorpion stings were reviewed during 2010-2013 (Alkahlout, *et al.*, 2015). This implies the presence of scorpions of medical importance. Ward *et al.* (2018) considered *H. jayakari* as a scorpion of medical significance. Further collection of scorpions from Qatar is needed to fill the gap in knowledge regarding this group.



**Figure 1.** *Hottentotta jayakari* (Pocock, 1895) from Qatar.

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