OPEN PEER REVIEW

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Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
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- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

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https://brieflands.com/briefland/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

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Peer Review Report for "Spatial Distribution of Medically Important Scorpions in Iran: A Review Article"

Author(s): Mulood Mohammadi Bavani, Shahin Saeedi, Abedin Saghafipour

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 26 Feb 2020
Revised Date: 13 Apr 2020
Accepted Date: 20 Apr 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 28 Feb 2020

Dear AE,
In recent years, several review articles on scorpions have been published. For example , A Checklist of Scorpions in Iran (By 2017), by Rouhullah Dehghani and Hamid Kassiri,(Asian Journal of Pharmaceutics • Jul-Sep 2018 (Suppl) • 12 (3) | S880) and Mapping the Distribution of some important Scorpions Collected in the Past Five Decades in Iran by Sedaghat MM; , Salehi Moghadam AR; , Dehghani R; (J Army Univ Med Sci. 2011 Dec; 9(4): 285-2960.
This paper is very similar with the second above paper in subject and the second above paper is much better and better quality.
The authors should clearly mention what is new on their report compared to these two publications in particular.
Thanks

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) — 6 Apr 2020

Dear EIC,

This article has new data and name modification in fauna scorpions of Iran to similar previous papers ,But the map of distribution of any species is not clear ,so It must be given maps with better resolution. The data about Odonthubutus doriae must also be corrected , including:

Odonthubutus doriae species very dangerous, but don't live in near to residential areas , This scorpion is dangerous and deadly to people like soldiers and workers who live in desert areas and camps.

Odonthubutus doriae is one of the dangerous scorpions in the country which its sting is life-threatening to humans (Razi and Malekanrad, 2008; Jalali, 2007; Zare et al., 2006 and Vatanpour et al., 2013;dehghani and et al 2017; Dehghani and Kamiabi 2017;dehghani and et al 2018;)

Dehghani R and Kamiabi F. Frequency of Odonthubutus doriae Thorell 1876 nests in desert soils,Esfahan, Iran. 2017;41 (1):13-18.

Dehghani R, Khoobdel M, Sobati H. Scorpion Control in Military Units: A Review Study. J Mil Med. 2018; 20 (1) :3-13.

Dehghani R , Kamiabi F, Mohammadzadeh N. Burrowing Habits of two Arthropods; Odenthobutus doriae and Hemilepistus shirazi in desert soils of Isfahan, Iran , J. ent. Res. 2017 ; 41 (2) :113-118

Thanks

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (0)** 7 Apr 2020

Dear Author,

The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear Editor of Shiraz E Medical Journal

Thank you for considering our manuscript. Answers to Reviewer comments are presented:

1-Our study is differed from your mention articles because our manuscript is about distribution of the most medically important scorpion in Iran (and more recently reported scorpions from Iran), not all of the reported scorpion species from Iran.

2- In compare with the article entitles: A Checklist of Scorpions in Iran (By 2017)

This article is a check list about Iranian scorpions and something is wrong or not updated:

3- Now there are 66 scorpion species in Iran, not 64 species.

4- In this article the distribution area for ***Mesobuthus eupeus*** are provinces of:

Fars, Kerman, Kohkyloye-Boyer-Ahmad, Hormozgan, Kermanshah, Ilam, Western Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Ardebil,Markazi, Mazandaran, Yazd, Semnan, Khuzestan, Golestan, Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Southern Khorasan.

But in our manuscript we have produced a distribution map for this species that include many provinces of Iran: East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Zanjan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Golestan, Markazi, Khorasan e Razavi, Khorasan e Shomali, Khorasan e Jonoobi, Kurdistan, Hamadan, Qom, Ilam, Kermanshah, Kerman, Isfahan, Markazi, Sistan & Baluchistan, Yazd, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Semnan, Fars, Khuzestan, Hormozgan.

5- In this article the distribution area for ***Androctonus crassicauda*** is: Busher, Semnan, Khuzestan, Ilam,Western Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Razavi Khorasan, Southern Khorasan, Kermanshah and Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan.

But in our manuscript these provinces were added as new distribution area for this species in compare with this article: **Ardabil, East Azerbaijan, Zanjan, Lorestan, Khorasan-E-Shomali, Ghom, Mrkazi and Hormozgan.**

6- **Sistan and Baluchistan** were added as new distribution area with compare to this article for ***Compsobuthus matthiesseni***

7- There are several **subspecies of Mesobuthus eupeus** from Iran, we reported the distribution area for all subspecies, because all of these are medically important, but in this article there is no information about them.

8- For ***Odontobuthus doriae*** these provinces were added**:** Fars, Mazandaran, Zanjan, Ghom, Khorasan-E- Shomali, Ilam, Chahar Machal & Bakhtiyari, Sistan & Baluchistan.

9- ***- For Hottentotta saulcyi*** these provinces were added: Alborz, Markazi, Zanjan, Qom, Bushehr , Khuzestan and Machal & Bakhtiyari.

10- In our manuscript we reported the species: *Ortochirus gantenbeini and Orthochirus carinatus* but these two new species are not included in this article

11- In our manuscript we have reported a new species of Hemiscorpiidae family as: *Hemiscorpius shahi*, but in this article there is no mention of it.

12- Recently some scorpions name in Iran has been changed as:

Apistobuthus pterygocercus to *Apistobuthus susanae*

Simonoides Farzanpay to *Orthochirus farzanpayi*

Odontobuthus odonturus to Odontobuthus bidentatus

Hottentotta schach to *Hottentotta zagrosensis*

That we have considered all these new changes in our manuscript but in this article none of these changes have been considered.

Our article compared to the article entitled: Mapping the Distribution of some important Scorpions Collected in the Past Five Decades in Iran.

-In our manuscript the distribution area for **all species** include more provinces than those reported in this article .

-In this article only for *Hemiscorpius lepturus* the distribution map has been introduced but in our manuscript we have produced distribution area for all species of Hemiscorpiidae family from Iran including: *Hemiscorpius lepturus* (wide distribution), *Hemiscorpius persicus* (Sistan & Baluchistan), *Hemiscorpius achantocercus* and *Hemiscorpius gaillardia* (Sistan & Baluchistan), *Hemiscorpius enischnochela* (from Hormozgan & Khuzestan), *Hemiscorpius kashkayi* (Khuzestan) and *Hemiscorpius shahi* (Hormozgan).

As explained above. The information in this article is not new and updated, Like:

-There are several subspecies of *Mesobuthus eupeus* from Iran, we reported the distribution area for all subspecies, because all of these are medically important, but in this article there is no information for them.

- In our manuscript we reported the species: *Ortochirus gantenbeini* and *Orthochirus carinatus* but these two new species are not included in this article

Recently some scorpions name in Iran has been changed as:

-*Odontobuthus odonturus* to *Odontobuthus bidentatus*

-*Hottentotta schach* to *Hottentotta zagrosensis*

That we have considered all these new changes in our manuscript but in this article none of these changes have been considered

-In our manuscript we gave a lot of information about morphology of scorpion species.

-In this article the authors mapping the distribution area for a species as: *Orthochirus scrobiculosus*

But now this is not acceptable for famous scorpiologist. In our manuscript the species of the genus Orthochirus in Iran are as follow: *Orthochirus iranus, Orthochirus farzanpayi, Orthochirus stockwelli, Orthochirus varius, Orthochirus gruberi, Orthochirus zagrosensis, Orthochirus iranus, Orthochirus gantenbeini and Orthochirus carinatus*. *O. gantenbeini and O. carinatus* have been added to Iranian scorpion fauna more recently.

Finally, the GIS maps were replaced with suitable and high resolution maps.

All of recommended references by reviewers were added to manuscript.

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Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 20 Apr 2020

Dear EIC,
The requested corrections have been made.
The article is suitable for publication now, I accept the article.
Thanks

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 20 Apr 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.