

Problematic species delimitation and cryptic vicariance in a pair of European pseudoscorpions

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Following the first records of *Chthonius* (*Ephippiochthonius*) *boldorii* Beier, 1934 in central Europe, a species which was previously assumed to occur exclusively in Mediterranean caves, 116 series (595 specimens) of the cryptic taxa *C. (E.) boldorii* and *C. (E.) fuscimanus* Simon, 1900 (Syn. *C. (E.) austriacus* Beier, 1931) were re-examined. Although multivariate analyses suggest specific differences, there is only one unequivocal character for discrimination: the presence or absence of a single isolated tooth on the moveable finger of the chelicerae. The distributions were found to be negatively associated, therefore it is concluded that the species rank of the two “forms” is justified. North of the Alps an almost vicariant pattern emerged: east of the 14° E *fuscimanus* occurs, west of it *boldorii*. The results provide a basis for discussing the relevance of minute morphological differences in pseudoscorpion taxonomy.