

Scorpions of Europe

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Abstract: This brief review summarizes the studies in systematics and zoogeography of European scorpions. The current “splitting” trend in scorpion taxonomy is only a reasonable response to the former “lumping.” Our better understanding of scorpion systematics became possible due to the availability of new morphological characters and molecular techniques, as well as of new material. Many taxa and local faunas are still under revision. The total number of native scorpion species in Europe could easily be over 35 (Buthidae, 8; Euscorpiidae, 22-24; Chactidae, 1; Iuridae, 3) belonging to four families and six genera. The northern limit of natural (non-anthropochoric) scorpion distribution in Europe is in Saratov Province, Russia, at 50°40'54"N, for *Mesobuthus eupeus* (Buthidae).

Keywords: Buthidae, Euscorpiidae, Iuridae, Chactidae, *Buthus*, *Mesobuthus*, *Euscorpius*, *Iurus*, *Calchas*, *Belisarius*