

**Neotype fixation and redescription of *Chthonius tetrachelatus* (Preyssler, 1790),  
type species of the subgenus *Ephippiochthonius* Beier, 1930  
(Pseudoscorpiones: Chthoniidae)**

**Fixace neotypu a redeskripcie druhu *Chthonius tetrachelatus* (Preyssler, 1790),  
typového druhu podrodu *Ephippiochthonius* Beier, 1930  
(Pseudoscorpiones: Chthoniidae)**

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**Abstract.** A male neotype of *Chthonius* (*Ephippiochthonius*) *tetrachelatus* (Preyssler, 1790) is designated and described from the centre of Prague (park at Karlovo náměstí).

## INTRODUCTION

Preyssler (1790) described *Scorpio tetrachelatus* from a single specimen found in singular circumstances – alive in a glass of beer in his house (“Der Aufenthaltsort dieses Thierchens scheint so, wie des Bücherscorpions (*Scorpio cancroides* Lin.) in Häuser zu seyn; weil ich es selbst in einem Zimmer in einem Glase Bier fand; doch schien ihm dieser Aufenthaltsort nicht der liebste zu seyn, weil es darinnen nicht schwimmen konnte, und sich herauszukriechen bestrebte. Ob es bei uns gemein ist oder selten sei, kann ich nicht entscheiden, weil ich solches nur einmal gefangen habe” – Preyssler (1790: 56-57)). Stecker (1874) attributed the species to the genus *Chthonius* C. L. Koch, 1843 and Beier (1930) included it in the subgenus *Ephippiochthonius* Beier, 1930, of which *S. tetrachelatus* is, by subsequent designation of Hoff (1949), the type species.

The subgenus *Ephippiochthonius* includes 92 species, mainly endemic or with restricted geographical range in the Mediterranean region. Only *Chthonius* (*E.*) *virginicus* J. C. Chamberlin, 1929 has been described from eastern U.S.A. and *C. (E.) tetrachelatus* (Preyssler, 1790) is considered to have a world-wide distribution showing a primary area in the western Palaearctic Region (chiefly Euromediterranean), although it was also introduced to eastern Canada, U.S.A. (including Hawaii), Cuba, Argentina, Seychelles and southeastern Australia (Harvey 2009).

*Chthonius tetrachelatus* was redescribed several times (Beier 1932, Hadži 1933, Vachon 1941a,b, Rafalski 1949, Hoff 1950, 1951, Beier 1963, Dumitresco & Orghidan 1964, von Helversen 1966, Ćurčić 1972, Nelson 1975, Harvey 1987), but never from typical or topotypical specimens. Harvey (1987) emphasized that “the possibility exists that more than one species has been confused under this name”.

Preyssler’s original description, although accurate for the time, is now inadequate for recognizing the species and the type specimen must be considered lost or destroyed (J. Hájek,