New Products of Defense Secretion in South East Asian Whip Scorpions (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonida)

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Secretion products from the opisthosomal defense gland of south east Asian whip scorpions were identified for the first time by gas-chromatography and mass-spectrometry. Specimens of the genera Hypoctonus, Typopeltis and Ginosigma were tested. While some ingredients are present in large concentrations, others are possibly only side products and may be synthesized more incidentally. For this reason no important functional role is attributed to them. There are considerable individual differences concerning the concentrations of various ingredients. While the secretion products of most species of the genus Typopeltis – similar to Mastigoproctus – are characterized by acetic and octanoic acid in large concentrations, the secretion product of Hypoctonus siamensis provides octanoic acid only in a very low concentration but it is characterized by hexyl acetate.

Key words: Uropygi, Defense Secretion, Analysis