

RECORD OF THE SCORPION *LIOCHELES KARSCHII* (KEYSERLING, 1855) FROM NORTH EAST QUEENSLAND (SCORPIONIDA: ISCHNURIDAE). *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 38(2):532. 1995:- The ischnurid scorpion *Liocheles karschii* (Keyserling, 1855) is known from New Guinea and adjacent islands. In Australia the species is reported only from islands of Torres Strait (Koch, 1977), but in December 1990 many specimens were observed in boulder caves in Black Mountain, 20km S of Cooktown, NE Queensland. A female specimen was collected from the Black Mountain caves and has been deposited in the Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville QMS105138).

Liocheles karschii is distinguished from other species of *Liocheles* in Australia by the large adult size (carapace length greater than 13.6mm) and the presence of a smooth continuous groove on the manus of the pedipalp in which trichobothria *dst*, *dsb* and *db* occur (Koch, 1977).

Liocheles karschii is not a troglobite, although it was abundant in the caves in Black Mountain. This species has been collected under logs in New Guinea (Koch, 1977), and may be found in the woodlands surrounding Black Mountain, although this habitat has not yet been investigated. Black

Mountain is constructed of granite boulders and its caves are interconnected gaps between the boulders. Unlike solution caves and lava tubes in which entry and egress is limited to one or a few points, the Black Mountain boulder caves are accessible at many points. Numerous other arthropods including opiliones, archaeognathids and centipedes were also observed in these caves.

This record extends the known range of *Liocheles karschii* by approximately 600km, and confirms the presence of this species in mainland Australia.

Literature Cited

Koch, L.E. 1977. The taxonomy, geographic distribution and evolutionary radiation of Australo-Papuan scorpions. *Records of the Western Australian Museum* 5(2): 83-367.

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