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Title: Diffuse resistance courtship in the scorpion *Rhopalurus rochai* (Scorpiones: Buthidae)

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Highlights

- We newly describe the courtship in the neotropical scorpion *Rhopalurus rochai*, from arid savannah, caatinga habitats.
- Females screen out most male mating attempts, particularly in the pre-dance phase.
- Screening does not involve simple behaviour units that are relevant for other scorpion species.
- Unsuccessful courtships are characterised by diffuse female resistance and unpredictability.
- Diffuse resistance should be favoured in asymmetric games with low resource availability.

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