

Scorpions: Facts, Identification & Control

Print Profile

Scorpions have been around for a long time - over 420 million years-and may be the most feared of all animals that Mother Nature has produced. Scorpions are arthropods of the arachnid class. They are distant relatives of spiders, mites and ticks. But what makes scorpions stand out is that they can inject potent venom through their menacing tail. Scorpions are nocturnal feeders and survive on a diet of insects, spiders, centipedes and other scorpions by using their front claws (pedipalps) and stinger. It also possesses sensory hairs that are used for detecting the vibrations of a possible snack. In attack, these scorpions will grab their prey with their claws, and sting only if the victim shows signs of resistance.

In a human victim, a scorpion's venom may cause symptoms like swelling at the site of the sting. However, some people experience numbness, and convulsions. In extreme cases, some people may experience difficulty in breathing. People who are allergic are most likely to die from a dangerous scorpion's venom. Their chance of survival improves if they receive an injection of anti-venom in time to counteract the sting's effects.

Presently, there are 1,200 known species of scorpions in the world - and all of these scorpions are dangerous to some degree. Among types of scorpions, the smaller species are often more venomous--larger scorpions compensate by appearing more formidable to potential predators.

