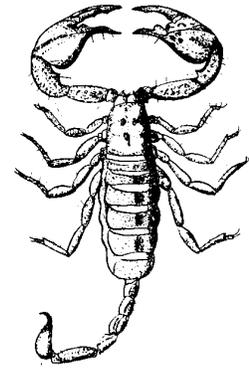




Scorpions



| Class | Order | Species |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Arachnida | Scorpiones | 1,000+ worldwide, 20-30 in the U.S. |

Range

Scorpions are found worldwide but individual species tend to be restricted to relatively small areas.

Habitat

Mostly in warm, dry climates in western U. S. but some species live in cold climates and others in tropical climates.

Niche

Scorpions are general predators of other small arthropods. Some hide under rocks and wood while other species burrow in the ground.

Diet

In nature: predators of any arthropod small enough to handle, prefers soft bodied arthropods.

In culture: 1 cricket per week.

Reproduction

- Growth:** gradual, molts several times.
Egg: the fertilized eggs develop inside the mother and the young are born alive.
Immature: ride on their mother's back until their first molt.
Adult: become sexually mature after last molt; may live for several years.
Behavior: courtship is dance-like. The male grasps the females pedipalpal claws and walks sideways or backward as she follows. Some species entwine their tails together as well. The male digs a hole or finds some other place to hide and mating occurs.

Physical Characteristics

- Appendages:** chewing mouthparts, the pedipalps (their "claws") are used to capture and handle food. In addition to the pedipalps scorpions have 8 legs.
Pectines: a pair of comb like sensory organs located on the underside of the abdomen, not found in any other animal.
Immature: white until the first molt, quite small (millimeters).
Adult: approximately 17+cm to less than a millimeter in size depending on the species. The species in the Bay Area are usually no larger than 3 inches and are brown in color. The male is more

Common Species

Uroctonus mordax is common in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Special Adaptations

Poison: scorpions sting in self defense and to subdue their prey. Most stings are not serious and have only a local effect. **There are no dangerous (deadly poisonous) scorpions in California** but dangerous species do occur in North Africa, South America, Mexico and one species in Arizona (*Centruroides sculpturatus*).

Sources

(17) (35)

