

THEY HAVE 2 PINCERS AT THE FRONT AND 8 LEGS.

They are **arachnids** not insects. They are related to spiders and ticks.

They hunt at night, grabbing their prey with their pincers and injecting them with venom from the stinger on their tail.

# SCORPION

## IT PARALYZES PREY WITH ITS STINGER

More than 2,000 species of scorpions have been discovered, but only 25 to 50 of them possess venom strong enough to kill a human.

They can freeze during the night and then thaw out in the morning sun and walk away without any problems.



Their exoskeleton is made of chitin, which provides support, mobility, and protection.



### ABDOMEN

The front part of the body has 8 legs and is where you will find the eyes, brain, mouth, and oral chelicerae (mouth parts).

### CEPHALOTHORAX

Ring-shaped segments that are flexibly connected to each other. This section contains the digestive and reproductive systems, the tail, and the stinger.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

UP TO 25 YEARS

Their lifespan ranges from 6 months to 25 years.

UP TO 1 OUNCE

They rarely weigh more than 1 ounce (28 grams).

AROUND 3 INCHES

The most common ones can reach between 2 and 3 inches (51 and 76 millimeters).

### PINCERS

They have a pair of large front claws that are sometimes called pincers.

### JAWS

They break down their prey with their jaws, which cover it in digestive fluids secreted by the intestine.



This process liquefies the softer parts, which are then sucked into the stomach.

### STINGER

Their stinger delivers the venom. It is used for self-defense or to kill prey.

THEY ARE OPPORTUNISTIC HUNTERS AND OFTEN CANNIBALS.

### TAIL

Males are often thinner and have longer tails than females.

They have existed for over 350 million years—as far back as when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

### REPRODUCTION

THEY REPRODUCE DURING THE WARM MONTHS.

A male scorpion will lead a female scorpion in a sort of walk or dance, holding her by the pincers. They will sometimes even sting each other! The female attracts the male with special scents (pheromones).

THE FEMALE INCUBATES THE EGGS INSIDE HER BODY.

For some species it takes up to 12 months to give birth to live young.

Depending on the species she can have between 1 and 100 young at a time. The young climb onto the female's back until they can hunt and live on their own.



They feed on insects, spiders, snails, lizards, snakes, rodents, and other scorpions.

They are able to slow down their metabolism when food is scarce.



This technique allows them to reduce their oxygen consumption and live on a single insect per year. Even with their metabolism slowed, they are amazing hunters.



THEY STAY COMPLETELY STILL UNTIL THEY CAN AMBUSH (SURPRISE ATTACK) THEIR PREY.

- They locate prey through vibrations in the ground.
- They detect vibrations made by insects and spiders.
- They can determine the distance and exact direction of their prey.

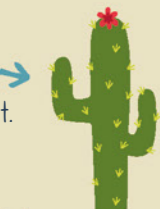
### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



Scorpions can be found in all parts of the world, except Greenland and Antarctica. Their habitat extends from North America to South America, Central Europe, North Africa, South Africa, the Middle East, and southern Asia.

### ARID ZONE

It can run quickly over sand and does not dry out.



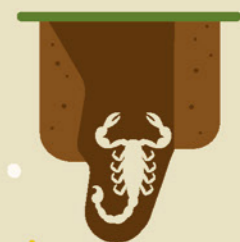
### ROCKY ZONE

They have flat bodies that allow them to slide through holes and cracks.



### CAVE ZONE

They make or find burrows underground. They only emerge to hunt and reproduce.



### HABITAT

Deserts, grasslands, savannas, prairies, and forests in temperate, subtropical, and tropical climates.

### Taxonomy

Phylum: **arthropoda**  
Class: **arachnida**  
Order: **scorpiones**

Scientific Name  
**Scorpiones**

Diet  
**Carnivorous**

Living Environment  
**Land**

Conservation Status  
**Least concern**