

Scorpion



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

SCORPION

FAMILY: Buthidae

ORDER: Scorpionae

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ up to 2 inches long
- ◆ 4 pairs of jointed legs
- ◆ large arm-like pincers extending from the head, used for seizing prey
- ◆ stinger on tip of long narrow abdomen held curved over the body



Where to Look:

Scorpions prefer warm dry places. They are active at night and hide in the day under rocks, logs, leaf litter, or in burrows.

Who Eats It?

Scorpions have a venomous stinger at the tip of the abdomen for protection against predators.



LIFE CYCLE

Male and female scorpions go through a courtship ritual or dance before mating. The young are born live and climb onto the mother's back. They may stay as long as two months being fed by the mother. They eventually disperse and feed on their own.

What It Eats.

Scorpions eat insects, other small invertebrate, and sometimes young lizards or snakes. They use pincers to grab prey then they tear it apart with small pincers on their jaws. Scorpions can go a whole year without food.

Role in the Ecosystem

Scorpions are predatory and play a role in population control of many kinds of insects.



Did You Know

The scorpions found in Georgia inflict a painful sting. In the SW United States the venom from a sting can be very poisonous and can even cause death.