

Scorpions

Scorpions are arachnids with eight legs and two body regions. Scorpions also have two pincers or claws, called pedipalps, which help them hold their prey as they eat. They also have a long tail with a stinger on the tip that is used for defense or to paralyze prey.

The most common scorpion in Central Texas is the striped bark scorpion. This scorpion is yellowish-tan with two dark stripes that run along the back. Striped bark scorpions get up to 2 ½" in length.

Scorpions can be found under rocks, logs or landscaping material as well as in woodpiles or in homes. When working outside, leather gloves should be worn to avoid being stung.



Striped bark scorpions are capable of stinging, but only cause moderate reactions for most people. Ice packs can be placed on the sting area to reduce pain and swelling. A person stung by a scorpion should be watched closely for several hours following the incident to ensure that an allergic reaction does not manifest. If breathing difficulties or hives occur, seek immediate medical attention.

To help keep scorpions from moving into the home, try the following:

- Remove debris (including firewood) away from the home
- Prune any trees or shrubs that touch or overhang the house
- Replace weather stripping as needed around doors or windows
- Stuff weepholes with copper mesh
- Seal cracks & crevices and/ or pipe penetrations with sealant

- Treat the foundation of the home with a pesticide labeled for outside use and scorpions

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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