

Petware House

Your Neighborhood Pet Store

Emperor Scorpion

Pandinus imperator

CARE SHEET



Scorpions consist of both forest and desert species. The emperor scorpion is a forest variety. Be sure that you are familiar with your scorpion's natural habitat. A scorpion's sting can vary from mild to severe, depending upon species.

- Average Size** The average size is about 3 to 8 inches long. **Life Span** 2-6 years with proper care.
- Feeding** You need to feed juveniles every day and feed adults every other day. Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement. Remove any uneaten live crickets as they may attack a resting scorpion.
- Housing** An appropriate sized habitat for an adult scorpion to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise should be wider than it is tall, with a secure lid. A 20-40 gallon long aquarium is plenty of room.
- Maintenance** You need to change your scorpion's water daily. Mist the habitat several times a day to maintain high humidity. Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week; set your scorpion aside in a secure habitat and scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; dry the tank and furnishings; and add clean substrate.
- Temps** Put an under tank heater or a ceramic heat source on one end of the habitat so there is a warm side and a cool side; temperature gradient is needed (90 degrees F. for the warm end and 80 degrees F. for the cool end.)
- Lighting** Scorpions are nocturnal and have no special lighting needs; direct UV light can be harmful to all scorpions; they need a photo period light cycle; provide 8-12 hours of light daily; do not leave white light on at all times; to view scorpions at night, use a black or infrared light.

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Water & Accessories

Always have a shallow dish of chlorine-free water available; if a sponge is used in the dish it must be replaced often as it can grow harmful bacteria and mold.

BASIC REPRODUCTIVE INFORMATION

Both male and female Black Emperor Scorpions take about three years to reach maturity, and will breed in another one to three years after maturity. After a successful mating there will be behavioral changes in the female after a short period of time. She will start to grow restless, and pregnancy will usually be visible. A pregnant female will have visible white masses located inside the intersegmental membranes. Young Scorpions do not hatch from eggs, but rather are born live. They must stay with their mother until they molt once to keep from dying of thirst. Young are commonly seen riding on their mother's backs until this time. Most female Black Emperors feed the young by crushing crickets and feeding them to her young. Mothers have been known to eat their babies. Some hobbyists report that this behavior can be decreased if the mother is well fed, but this is not always the case.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Do not house different species of scorpions together!

All scorpions are venomous and sting; depending on the species, the sting can be mild (similar to a bee sting) to severe; although most people are not affected by emperor scorpions some humans may be allergic to scorpion venom.

Most scorpions are nocturnal.

Emperor scorpions have traditionally been kept in groups of three or more, as long as they are provided with enough food; but it is suggested to keep them in separate tanks, as some may become territorial and show aggressive tendencies.

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