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ANIMALS

SCORPION

368417

PROFILE

Scorpions can quickly grab an insect with their pincers and whip their telson, the poisonous tip of their segmented tail forward and sting their prey.

Photograph by [Otto Hahn, Picture Press/Photolibrary](#)



Scorpions look like small lobsters and are believed to be the first animals to move from water to land hundreds of millions of years ago.

Photograph by [Emanuele Biggi, OSF/Photolibrary](#)



OVERVIEW

Scorpions are arachnids and have eight legs like their cousins—spiders, mites, and ticks. They can quickly grab an insect with their pincers and whip their telson, the poisonous tip of their tail forward and sting their prey. They use their poison to kill prey and to defend against predators. Scorpions look like small lobsters and may be the first animals to move from water to land hundreds of millions of years ago. They have been around since before the age of the dinosaurs. Fossils of scorpions from Scotland hundreds of millions of years ago show that their appearance hasn't changed over the millennia, but they are now half the size of their ancient ancestors. Only 30 or 40 species around the world have strong enough poison to kill a person. Each species has a special type of venom that works well against a chosen prey. Scorpions typically eat insects, but when food is

of venom that works well against a chosen prey. Scorpions typically eat insects, but when food is scarce, they can slow their metabolism to as little as one-third the typical rate for arthropods. This technique enables some species to use little oxygen and live on only one insect per year. Such survival skills allow scorpions to live in some of the planet's toughest environments. Researchers have even frozen scorpions overnight, only to put them in the sun the next day and watch them thaw out and walk away. However, they are burrowing animals, so in areas of permafrost or heavy grasses, where loose soil is not available, scorpions may not be able to survive.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scorpiones

FAMILY NAME

Scorpionoidea

HABITAT

Desert, Grassland

RANGE



ENDANGERED STATUS



NOT EVALUATED

CLASSIFICATION

Invertebrate

LIFE SPAN

5 years

DIET

Carnivore



HEAVIER THAN A U.S. PENNY



0.4 - 3.5 oz



0.08 oz



FASTER THAN A CHILD WALKING



0 mph



2 mph



SHORTER THAN A TEASPOON



0 in



6 in

DIVE DEEPER



SEE SPARKLEMUFFIN
NEW PEACOCK SPIDER FOUND!

56403

MOMENT OF...



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PHOTOARK

MOMENT OF YIKES!

MEET A FEW OF NATURE'S STRANGEST ANIMALS—FROM A BRIGHT-BLUE TARAN...

30843



TOP TEN NEW SPECIES

CHECK OUT THE LIST!

245054

MOMENT OF... OF...



MOMENT OF AWW!

SEE SOME SCARY-CUTE ANIMALS.

94512



BLACK WIDOW SPIDER

MOST VENOMOUS

64539



AMAZING ANIMALS

SCORPION - EP. 34

SCORPIONS ARE ARACHNIDS AND HAVE EIGHT LEGS—JUST LIKE SPIDERS! LEARN MORE AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE SCORPION IN THIS VIDEO FROM NATIONAL

1392

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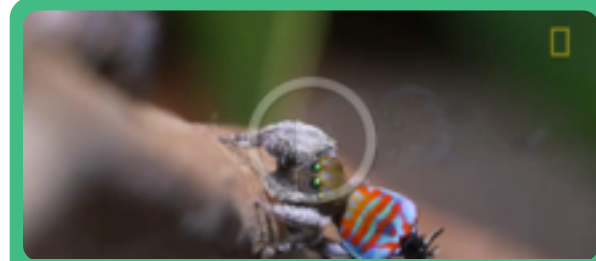


SPOOKY

PARTY ANIMALS SPOOKY SPIDER - EP. 8

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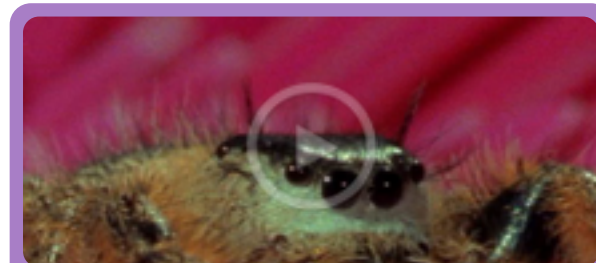
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MOMENT OF... OF...

MOMENT OF EWW!

CHECK OUT THIS GROSS GALLERY!

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THEY HUNT INSECTS AND FROGS!

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