

# Scorpions

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Introduction

Scorpions are in the arthropod class Arachnida, in the order Scorpionida. There are between 1000 and 1500 species of scorpions. The scorpions sold by Carolina Biological Supply, like all scorpions, are venomous. Although the species sold by Carolina are not considered dangerous, like all stinging animals, they should be handled with caution. If you would like more information about these fascinating animals, you may wish to purchase the care book listed at the end of this document.

Scorpions are nocturnal and secretive. They are inactive during the day and generally feed at night. They tend to burrow beneath the substrate in their cage. Scorpions may live up to 12 years in captivity if properly maintained.

### Handling

**Avoid handling scorpions!** Although the scorpions sold by Carolina Biological Supply are considered to be relatively harmless and seldom sting, there is no reason to risk receiving a painful welt. Even the mildest sting can swell and hurt. Scorpions are more agile than they sometimes appear, and they are fast with their stinging tails. If a scorpion must be transported, nudge or herd it into a transparent deli cup or some other container that can be securely covered until the scorpion can be released into a secure enclosure. Of course, you need to provide air holes if the scorpion will be in the cup for longer than a few minutes. Always keep the scorpion in sight when it is being moved.

### Housing

Scorpions have fairly simple needs for shelter. They should be maintained in a secure container (generally a glass aquarium or plastic terrarium will suffice) with a tight-fitting, ventilated lid. Scorpions climb, so it is imperative to use a fairly high-sided terrarium. A 5-gallon terrarium generally provides adequate space for one or two animals. However, 4 or 5 scorpions may be kept together in a community tank at least 20 gallons in size. This will prevent overcrowding. Scorpions kept together should be of similar size.

### Lighting, Temperature, and Humidity

Scorpions are nocturnal and do not need to bask. They should not need supplemental lighting. The best heat source is a tank bottom heater. A small dry tank heater that maintains a constant temperature of about 80°F is ideal. Place the heater on no more than 1/3 of the tank bottom.

This provides a heat gradient in the tank, allowing the animal to regulate its own body temperature. If a scorpion does not feed, it may be too cold. If it remains on the surface (not burrowing), acts very aggressive, and then appears uncoordinated or “angry,” the temperature may be too high.

The scorpions sold by Carolina Biological Supply originate in the tropics and subtropics. They need a warm, humid terrarium with a substrate of bark or mulch. Substrate depth should be at least 2–3 inches and may be up to twice the length of the scorpion. Saturate the bottom 1/2 inch (no more) of bark or mulch with water. Spray the substrate every few days so that it stays moist.

### Feed

Feed 1–3 live crickets one time each week. You can offer mealworms for occasional variety in diet. Provide the food at night to simulate the scorpion’s normal feeding cycle.

*Note: If the scorpion does not feed, remember to check the temperature (it may be too cold).*

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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