



Oklahoma School IPM

Scorpions



Scorpions are not insects but are closely related to ticks, mites and spiders. While there are about 50 species of scorpions in the United States, only five have been found in Oklahoma and only one is found throughout the state.

Description: The most common species of scorpion in Oklahoma is the striped bark scorpion.



About 2 inches (5cm) long, they have four pairs of legs, the first pair of legs have large pincers (pedipalps) and a long segmented tail with

a conspicuous stinger on the end. This scorpion can inflict very a painful sting, but it is not considered as potent as some of its relatives. It probably has a minor medical significance for healthy humans.

Location: Being dry-land creatures, scorpions are not usually found in wet areas, but they do require some moisture and are attracted to damp areas around plumbing, condensers, and air conditioning condensate drainage. Most species hide during the day under stones, logs boards, loose bark, and rubbish. Inside scorpions are usually found in crawl spaces, wall voids and attics, but they are also found in kitchens, bathrooms and other areas where moisture is available.

Life Cycle: Scorpions mate in the fall or early spring. Females do not lay eggs but bear anywhere from 14 to 100 young per litter alive in semi-transparent sacs. Once the young emerge from

the sacs, they crawl onto their mother's back and stay there without feeding until they molt a few days later. Once molted, young scorpions leave their mother and begin to hunt their own food. At this point they are capable of stinging. They take about one year to mature into adults and can survive up to five years.

Monitoring: Scorpions are fluorescent, they glow when exposed to ultraviolet light and are easy to spot at night by using a black light. However never look directly into a ultraviolet light since damage to your eye can occur.

Cultural Methods: It is not practical to control



scorpions with insecticides alone. By eliminating their habitats and possible entry ways into the building one can reduce

their presence. Remove all trash, logs, boards, stones and other items from around the area. Keep the grass mowed. Store garbage containers in such a way that they are not sitting on the ground. Caulk and weather-strip all cracks and openings. Eliminate clutter.

Pesticides: Should cultural methods fail to provide the desired control of scorpions that are invading human spaces; the school's pest control professional can apply the proper pesticides at night to help eliminate scorpions.

