

Scorpions

Carolina™ CareSheet

Scorpions are in the arthropod class Arachnida, in the order Scorpionida. There are between 1,000 and 1,500 species of scorpions, all of which are venomous, including the scorpions sold by Carolina. Although the species Carolina sells are not considered dangerous, as with all stinging animals, handle them with caution.

Scorpions are nocturnal—inactive during the day and generally feeding at night. They are also secretive and tend to burrow beneath the substrate in their cages. If properly maintained, scorpions may live up to 12 years in captivity.

Handling

Avoid handling scorpions! Considered relatively harmless scorpions, the species Carolina sells seldom sting. However, 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 are fast with their stinging tails. If you must transport a scorpion, nudge or herd it into a transparent deli cup or other container. Then keep the container securely covered until you release the scorpion into a suitable enclosure. Of course, provide air holes if the scorpion will be in the cup for longer than a few minutes. And always keep the scorpion in sight while moving it.

Housing

Scorpions' need for shelter is fairly simple. Maintain them in a secure container (usually a glass aquarium or plastic terrarium suffices) with a tight-fitting, ventilated lid. Scorpions climb, so it is imperative to use an appropriately high-sided terrarium. A 5-gallon terrarium is normally adequate space for 1 or 2 animals. However, 4 or 5 scorpions kept together require a community tank at least 20 gallons in size to prevent overcrowding. Only house similarly sized scorpions together; otherwise, larger ones will prey on their smaller tank mates.

Lighting, Temperature, and Humidity

Since scorpions are nocturnal, they do not need to bask and should not need supplemental lighting. The best heat source is a small dry under-tank heater that maintains a constant temperature of about 80° F.

Placing the heater on no more than 1/3 of the tank bottom provides a heat gradient, 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.

Scorpions sold by Carolina originate in the tropics and subtropics. They need a warm, humid terrarium with a substrate of bark or mulch. Make the substrate a minimum 2 to 3” deep and a maximum of up to twice the scorpion's length. Saturate the bottom ½” (no more) of bark or mulch with water, and spray the substrate with water every few days.

Feeding

Feed 1 to 3 live crickets once 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



www.carolina.com

© 2012 Carolina Biological Supply Company