

Pest Profile



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Common Name: House Centipede

Scientific Name: *Scutigera coleoptrata*

Order and Family: Chilopoda: various

Size and Appearance: Centipedes vary in size and coloration but the most common to invade homes in the U.S., the House Centipede, tends to be elongated and flattened with many legs. Generally, they have about 15 pairs of legs per body segment. For house centipedes, the average size is about 100 mm in length while other species can get up to 152 mm. The first pair of legs behind the head are modified into jaws that are capable of injecting poison into prey. Two pairs of legs at the base of the centipede are positioned backwards and serve as an easy distinguisher between other arthropods such as millipedes.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.1 mm	Females lay around 35 eggs in or on the soil during warm months.
Larva/Nymph	1-115 mm depending on species	1 st Instar: 4 pairs of legs Subsequent Instars: additional legs added Young centipedes resemble adults
Adult	2-115 mm depending on species	House Centipede: 38 mm long, grayish yellow body with 3 dorsal black stripes. Antennae and last pair of legs are much longer than body.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: *House Centipedes* feed on silverfish, firebrats, carpet beetles, cockroaches, and other small invertebrates.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Centipedes are usually found indoors in damp settings where their prey species are likely to also dwell. This includes basements, bathrooms, and potted plants. They are mostly a nuisance pest, but they do have the ability to bite if handled roughly.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Centipedes. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.9.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (January 2013). House Centipedes. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on June 30th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/house-centipedes>