

# Centipede

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Place about 4 to 5 cm of moist potting soil or woodland soil mix in a terrarium. Add some leaf litter (and small plants and rocks, if desired). Direct sunlight may overheat and kill centipedes, so place the terrarium in indirect light. Maintain at 20 to 22° C (68 to 72° F). Do not try to house more than one centipede in a terrarium, as centipedes will eat one another.

The terrarium should have a tight, escape-proof cover. Centipedes will spend much of their time hidden in the terrarium. If you want the centipede to be visible, try placing a length of tubing in the habitat. The centipede may crawl into the tube and remain there for long periods.

Centipedes need humidity, so their soil should be damp. Keep decaying wood, leaves, compost, or other organic material in the terrarium. Mist the habitat with room-temperature, conditioned water; if mold becomes a problem, mist less or increase the ventilation. Other than a humid environment, centipedes need little care.

Feed your centipede with crickets, roaches, moths, waxworms, or other small arthropods. Centipedes are active predators and kill prey with their poison claws. Larger centipedes can deliver a painful sting, so avoid handling them. The centipedes provided by Carolina are not poisonous to humans, but if they sting you, see a physician.

### FAQ's

*My centipede disappeared. Where did it go?*

Centipedes respond positively to touch and tend to move until they have something touching all surfaces of their body. Because of this, they usually end up under something. You will probably find your centipede under the leaf litter or burrowed into the soil. To avoid a possible sting, don't use your fingers to search for it.

*How do I keep my centipede healthy?*

Centipedes need humidity. Regularly spray the habitat with room-temperature, conditioned water. Be sure to add oak leaf litter as it is rich in chitin, which is essential to centipedes for molting and growth of a new exoskeleton. Don't be too fussy about keeping the terrarium clean; centipedes thrive under somewhat unkempt conditions.

*There are small flies in the habitat. What do I do?*

These are probably fungus flies. Their presence indicates that the habitat is too moist. Stop misting the habitat and increase ventilation. In a few days, the flies should be gone.

**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)

