

EMPEROR SCORPION



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

- Emperor scorpions are glossy black, but they can range from dark brown to green.
- These scorpions reflect ultraviolet light rays, so sometimes they glow in a blue hue!
- Their stinger and claws are of a red hue, and their color changes into a darker color with each succeeding molt.
- The front part of the body is made up of four sections, each with a pair of legs.
- Their tail, known as the metasoma, is long and curves back over the body, it also ends in a large receptacle containing the venom glands and is tipped with a sharp, curved stinger!

SIZE AND LIFESPAN:

- The emperor scorpion is one of the largest species of scorpion in the world, with adults averaging about 20cm (7.9inch) in length and a weight of around 30g.
- This species typically lives between 5-8 years depending on if the individual is wild or captive!

FUN FACTS:

- Because of their poor eyesight, they rely upon their sensory hairs to determine where their prey is.
- Adults typically have a docile nature, and are often common pets because of this!



NATIVE HABITAT:

- The emperor scorpion is an African rainforest species, but is also present in the savanna.
- They are found in a number of African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia and Ghana!
- This species burrows beneath the soil and hides beneath rocks and debris, and also often burrows in termite mounds!

DIET:

- In the wild, emperor scorpions primarily consume insects and other terrestrial invertebrates, although termites constitute a large portion of their diet.
- Larger vertebrates, such as rodents and lizards, are occasionally eaten.
- Emperor scorpions will burrow through termite mounds up to 6 feet deep in order to hunt prey!
- Their large claws help in tearing apart prey while their tail stinger injects venom at the same time for liquifying food.

REPRODUCTION:

- After a nine month or more gestation period, female gives live birth to 10-12 Scorplings which reach sexual maturity by 4 years of age.
- Born defenseless, Scorplings rely on mother for food and protection and are carried on her back until old enough to be on their own.
- Female will run them off by moving them with her tail or rolling on her side to tip them off her back when they are ready to care for themselves.
- Those that linger will be eaten!

