

# Emperor Scorpion



## What do we look like?

We are the largest species of scorpion on earth, but not the longest. Our coloring is a glossy black or blue, but greenish and dark brown colors have occurred. Milky white membranes connect our body segments. In females these membranes will expand when we are pregnant. We have four pairs of legs, a long tail tipped with a venomous stinger, and two large pinchers. We use sensory hairs, like whiskers on our bodies, to detect ground and air vibrations. Along with the sensory hairs we have great hearing, because just like all scorpions we need our other senses to make up for our horrible eyesight. We depend on our sensory hairs and great hearing for our survival. We are commonly thought to be insects, but are actually in the same family as spiders, ticks, and mites.

## What do we eat?

We eat most ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates like millipedes. We also occasionally eat small vertebrates such as mice and or baby lizards.



## What is our habitat?

We are found in tropical forests and in the savannas in African countries including Togo, Benin, Guinea, the Congo Region, Ghana, Chad, and Liberia. We are great burrowers and will dig out holes in the ground for shelter or to ambush prey. The countries we call home have warm, humid climates which make suitable habitats for us.



## Some cool facts...

- Emperor scorpions, like all scorpions glow green or light blue under black lights.
- Just like spiders, we molt (or shed) our outer shells every couple of months.
- The humidity of the air needs to be just right when we molt. If it's too dry, our old shells become too hard to get out of.
- Our species has been around for hundreds of thousands of years and our bodies have mostly remained the same now as they were back then.
- If we are frightened by a predator and cannot run away, we use a "threat posture." We will extend our pincers and open them wide as if to pinch anything that gets too close.
- Some of us have been known to break wooden pencils with our pincers.

