



Emperor Scorpion *Pandinus imperator*

- Emperor scorpions are a large, heavy bodied scorpion ranging from blackish to reddish black in color, with large pedipalps (claws or pincers) designed for grasping prey.
- Native to the savannahs and rainforests of western Africa.
- Emperor scorpions are among the largest species of scorpions in the world, and re primarily burrowing to terrestrial.
- Emperor scorpions are the most widely kept species of scorpion in the pet industry due to their size, docile nature and relatively mild venom.
- Emperor scorpions can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more if cared for correctly.

Size

5-9 inches on average.

Housing

Provide a sturdy, secure, and escape proof terrarium or enclosure 5-10 gallons in size with a secure top for one or two adult scorpions. Emperor scorpions can be kept communally provided sufficient enclosure space. Acceptable substrate to use can include slightly moist pesticide free potting soil, cypress mulch, Eco-Earth, or bed-a-beast 1-3 inches in depth. Decorations and/or other cage furnishings and hide boxes, cork, or bark slabs can also be included as well for additional retreats that these nocturnal and secretive scorpions prefer. A fairly small, shallow water dish can also be provided, and should be cleaned regularly. Maintain humidity at 60-80% with some sphagnum moss as well.

Emperor scorpions do best at room temperature between 80-85 degrees, or with a supplemental under tank heating pad if needed. No additional lighting or heating is necessary.

Feeding/Diet

Emperor scorpions are very easy and inexpensive to feed. Feeder crickets, mealworms, feeder roaches, and other feeder insects of appropriate size can be given every 5-7 days. Feeder insects can also be gut loaded to provide additional beneficial nutrients for your scorpion. Uneaten food items after one or more days should be carefully monitored or removed thereafter.

Handling

Emperor scorpions are typically a docile and slow moving species are reluctant to sting, and can be handled carefully so as to avoid injuring the scorpion. Scorpions are fragile animals, and accidently dropping one can result in the rupture of its internal organs and/or exoskeleton, causing death to your scorpion. Although the Emperor scorpion's venom is relatively mild and weak, with most being lesser than or just about equal to a bee sting, medical attention should still be sought from any apparent allergic reaction to a sting from this species.

Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens