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## Israeli Golden Scorpion (*Scorpio maurus*)

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### **Golden Stingers of the Middle East**

Also known as the large clawed scorpion, the Israeli golden scorpion is a medium to large species of scorpion found throughout much of northwestern to northeastern Africa, and the Middle East. These scorpions, which are excellent burrowers, may be found under leaves, loose bark, dark crevices, loose soils and other substrates, and nearly any other sources for cover. As with many other scorpions, these scorpions also contain properties within their exo-skeletons that enable them to glow a turquoise bluish-green under a fluorescent UV light. These scorpions also possess additional sensory hairs on their claws, legs, and tail that enable them to detect the vibrations of potential prey through the air and the ground. While the Israeli golden scorpion can be a defensive scorpion requiring more careful handling and care by the more intermediate to experienced pet owner or enthusiast, they can make for yet another attractive and easily kept scorpion species.

### **Taxonomy**

**Life:** All living, physical, and animate entities

**Domain:** Eukaryota

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Phylum:** Arthropoda

**Subphylum:** Chelicerata

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Scorpiones

**Family:** Scorpionidae

**Genus:** Scorpio

**Species:** *Scorpio maurus*\*

*\*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

### **Lifespan and Longevity**

Israeli golden scorpions can potentially attain longevity of 5 to 10 years or more if cared for correctly.

### **Distribution and Habitat**

The Israeli golden scorpion is a widely ranging species over much of northwestern to northeastern Africa and the Middle East, where they may specifically occur from Algeria, Egypt, and Libya to Sudan, Israel, and Jordan. They may be found in arid to semi-arid deserts, scrublands, savannahs, and dry forests within this range.

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### **Conservation Status**

Not Evaluated for the IUCN Red List (NE) or otherwise Data Deficient (DD).

### **Legal and Regulatory Status (\*Subject to Change)**

Consult with your local, municipal, and state ordinances and regulations for any ownership restrictions.

### **Experience Level Required**

Intermediate/Moderate.

### **Size**

Israeli golden scorpions are relatively medium sized to large species of scorpions, averaging 2 to 3 ½ inches.

### **Housing and Enclosure**

Provide a sturdy, secure, and escape proof terrarium or enclosure 5 to 10 gallons in size with a secure top for one or two adult scorpions. Golden scorpions are a burrowing species, and should be housed in accordingly deep enclosures. Several of the acrylic displays and enclosures that are now manufactured for housing arachnids, insects, and other invertebrates can also be used. Golden scorpions are a semi aggressive species, but can be housed together if sufficient space and resources are provided. Acceptable substrate to use can include slightly moist pesticide play sand or aquarium sand, coconut fiber, or potting soil mixtures 3 to 4 inches in depth. Decorations and/or other cage furnishings and hide boxes, cork, rock, or bark slabs can also be included as well for additional retreats that these nocturnal to crepuscular and secretive scorpions prefer. These scorpions may also utilize additional rock crevices or rock slabs as well. A fairly small, shallow water dish can also be provided, and should be cleaned regularly. Maintain humidity at 70 to 75% with some sphagnum moss as well if needed.

### **Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity**

Most species of scorpions have simple and undemanding heating and lighting requirements in captivity, and do not require additional UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it can be greatly beneficial for your scorpion's health, immune system, and overall wellness. Golden scorpions do best at room temperature between 75 to 85 degrees. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

### **Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition**

***Insectivorous to Carnivorous;*** In the wild, golden scorpions are primarily insectivorous, meaning they eat insects and other invertebrates. They will also occasionally eat smaller vertebrates as well if they can catch and subdue them. In captivity, these scorpions can be fed a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. This will promote optimal exoskeleton growth and development. Any uneaten food items should be cleaned and removed after a day or two. Their feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed even invertebrates, as obesity and other health related issues can still become an issue with them. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as

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### **Handling**

Israeli golden scorpions are a defensive species that may readily sting when disturbed. This and closely related species may have somewhat potent venom as well which may cause more severe symptoms. Therefore these scorpions should be handled with caution or otherwise is not recommended. Scorpions in general are fragile animals, and accidentally dropping one can result in the rupture of its internal organs and/or exoskeleton, causing death to your scorpion. Medical attention should always be sought from any apparent allergic reaction to a sting from this or any scorpion 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\*\***

### **Contact**

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at [info@madisonherps.org](mailto:info@madisonherps.org)

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