

Wood scorpion (*Cercophonius squama*) Care guide



The wood scorpion (*Cercophonius squama*) is a species of scorpion in the family Bothriuridae and is found across south-eastern Australia and favours wet eucalypt forest. Wood scorpions hide in short burrows in leaf litter in the day and wander looking for prey at night.

Wood scorpions, like all Australian scorpions, are mildly venomous and have painful but not life-threatening stings. *Cercophonius* sp. scorpions are rather defensive and are very good eaters, often they become distended in the body if left unchecked.

Sometimes *Cercophonius* sp will bury themselves in the substrate for long periods of time and there is very little surface evidence when it happens. If you have not seen your scorpion in a few months, take a spoon and gently sift through the substrate, you should find it, it is not recommended to do this if you have a juvenile or sub-adult scorpion as they could be moulting and result in the death or serious injury of your scorpion.

Care guide

Wood scorpion (*Cercophonius squama*)

Food

Feed your scorpion twice a week in the warmer months and try once a week in the cooler months. Young scorpions should be fed more often. Small crickets and cockroaches (½ the body size of the scorpion) make a great captive food source.

Housing

A plastic terrarium makes an ideal home for one scorpion or a breeding pair. There should be a lot of bark and leaf litter and about 5-10 cm of substrate.

Life span

3-7 years.

Water

Mist spray around your scorpion once every 2 days. If thirsty, it will drink from the soil or the droplets on the leaf litter. Alternatively keep a bit of Sphagnum Moss in the corner of your enclosure and keep that moist.

Temperature

This species does best at 18-24 degrees but will tolerate lower temperatures and have a slower growth rate and could be inactive for extended periods.

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