



Emperor Scorpion; *Pandinus imperator*

Adult size; 15 to 20 cm (6" to 8")

Origin; Tropical Central Africa (Togo, Ghana area's close the equator).

Temperature; 26°C to 32°C (80°F to 95°F)

Longevity; 5 to 8 years

The Emperor Scorpion is a large African species, they are a mild tempered species which will normally try to hide before they defend themselves. Unless you are allergic to it, the Emperor Scorpion's venom mild to most people. However, care should always be taken around this species.

Housing

Emperor scorpions can be housed in small plastic terrariums around 15 x 24 x 18cm (6" x 9" x 6") for smaller scorpions and 20 x 27 x 21cm (7" x 11" x 8") for larger scorpions. Plastic terrariums vary in dimensions depending on manufactory, these are good as they have plenty of ventilation. Alternatively, there are also a wide selection of glass terrariums available, these are generally more secure, bear in mind that scorpions are very good at squeezing through even the smallest of gaps.

Substrate

There are a number of different substrates on the market which can be used with tropical scorpions. It is important to bear in mind that the substrate need to hold moisture. More suitable substrates are; soil, coco husk, forest bark and cypress mulch. It not uncommon to mix two or more substrates together. Moss can also be place on top the substrate to help with the humidity.

Heating and Lighting

One of the most effective ways of heating a scorpion set up is with a heat mat, they have a low wattage and can be used with a mat thermostat to allow you to have greater control of the temperature. The best way to check your heating equipment is working correctly is use thermometers within in the terrarium.

Scorpions can have rather low levels of lighting and in most cases no additional lighting is required.

Decor

This is a real matter of personal preference. Items commonly use in scorpion housing are; Drift wood, slate, granite and coco hides.

Diet

Scorpions are insectivores which means they would naturally feed of a wide range of insects. Common foods include; fruit flies, mealworms, roaches, crickets and even locust. It is very important to offer the right size food to your scorpion, offering food items which are too small to larger individuals can mean they have difficulty feeding. Aim for an insect which is one third of the size of the scorpion.

Humidity

Emperor Scorpions naturally are found in areas with a high humidity, if their housing is too dry this can lead to problems and in the worse case death. Shallow water bowls can be use, occasional light misting will not harm, aim for a humidity level of 75% to 80%.