



# Asian Forest Scorpion

Heterometrus spinifer



## Buttercup

I was born on June 21st, 2021, and came to the Racine Zoo on November 21st, 2021

I live on exhibit in the Discovery Center. I am a nocturnal animal, so it may be hard to see me while I am sleeping during the day. I like to spend my time hidden under the structures and leaves in my habitat. My siblings, Bubbles and Blossom, also live at the zoo!

## Bubbles and Blossom

We were born on June 21st, 2021, and came to the Racine Zoo on November 21st, 2021.

We live off exhibit and participate as ambassador animals during education programs. When we go to a program, you'll get the opportunity to see us up close, but we do not like to be touched! Our sibling, Buttercup, lives in the Discovery Center!



## SCORPIONS AT A GLANCE



- Asian Forest Scorpions use their **pedipalps** (claws), to catch prey.
- Small hairs and structures called **pectines** help to feel their surroundings.



- Our tough outer covering, known as an exoskeleton, is made out of a strong material called **chitin**, which keeps us safe from predators.



- Our tails can deliver a painful sting, but we prefer not to use them for defense unless absolutely necessary.

Adult Size:  
3.5-6 inches



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 7-8 years  
Avg. life expectancy in human care: up to 10 years

## WHERE ARE NATIVE SCORPION HABITATS LOCATED?



Asian forest scorpion, commonly known as Malaysian Forest Scorpions, live throughout the southeastern parts of Asia, ranging from India to Malaysia. These scorpions prefer the warm and humid conditions of tropical and subtropical rainforests, where their choice is the forest floor. They can be found burrowing into the soil or seeking shelter beneath debris.

# Scorpion Behaviors

## DEFENSE

Asian Forest Scorpions will assume a defense posturing if they are feeling threatened, allowing them to protect themselves with their strong pincers.

If my pincers are raised up high, I could be feeling threatened and uncomfortable!



## MOLTING

Scorpions will molt around 5-6 times before reaching maturity. This process helps me get rid of my old exoskeleton and grow bigger!

During this time I will move as little as possible and I should be left alone.



## HIDING

Asian Forest Scorpions are nocturnal animals, meaning they are awake and active at night. During the day they will hide under foliage and burrow into the soil.

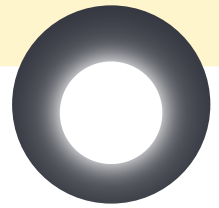
It may be hard to spot me because I am most comfortable when hiding in my habitat.



## GLOWING

Scorpions have a material in the cuticle of their exoskeleton that is bioluminescent. This means when they are exposed to ultra violet rays, a blue/green light is produced.

Keepers use a black-light flashlight to help identify me when they clean my habitat!



- Asian Forest Scorpions are a solitary species and only come together for mating purposes. They are very territorial and will defend their territory against other scorpions that they come across.
- When threatened, they are more likely to attack with their pincers, rather than sting with their tail.
- The sex of a mature scorpion can be determined from the pectines, the comb-like structures on the underside of the abdomen. In the males, these are larger and more “feathery”.

# Asian Forest Scorpion Conservation

The region of Southeast Asia that they live in is plagued by deforestation. Significant portions of the land is turned from rainforest to palm oil plantations.

The Asian Forest Scorpion is not listed on the IUCN redlist or the CITES appendices.



## How can we help?

We can help Asian Forest Scorpions and other animals residing in Southeast Asian forests by buying products made with sustainably farmed palm oil. Loss of forest habitats is one of the biggest concerns when it comes to this species. Purchasing from reputable pet breeders can also prevent this species from being removed from the wild for the pet trade.