

Lesson 7

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

Scorpions

According to a recent report, Arizona has thirty-six different kinds of scorpions. Scorpions prey on crickets, roaches, and grasshoppers. Scientists say that scorpions have been on earth since before the brontosaurus. They are survivors. In the desert, scorpions live under branches and litter. Scorpions are not very active during the colder months.

The small straw-colored bark scorpion is the only one likely to come into a house. This scrawny insect is able to crawl through the tiniest cracks because he is only about one-quarter inch long. He has four pairs of legs and claws on the front of his body. The stinger is on the end of a long tail, which he curls and carries over top of his body.

Last year in Arizona, six thousand scorpion stings were reported. No one in Arizona has died from a scorpion sting during the past forty years, but a sting is painful.

It may cause you to feel nervous or restless. Check with your doctor right away. He may suggest that you wash the site with soap and water and put a cold compress on the bite.

I've never seen a live scorpion. But I've been told that if you find one scorpion, there are probably others nearby.