

SCORPIONES

(Scorpions)

Iurids



Buthids



(22 Families Worldwide)

Family **IURIDAE** (Iurid Scorpions)

Giant Hairy Scorpion (*Hadurus arizonensis*)

Measurements:

Ave. Length: 5.5" Leg Span: 7"

Distinguishing field characteristics:

large size; dark cephalothorax (each segment rimmed in yellowish tan); legs and abdomen yellowish tan; distinctive dark, erect bristles on "tail" (abdomen), legs, and pedipalps

Notes:

common, but rarely seen; generally nocturnal throughout the desert southwestern US; characteristic blue-white fluorescence under UV radiation; **one** spur on last tarsal leg segment; generally holds its tail curled to the side (upper left photo), except in defense, indicating it resides under rocks, logs, debris, etc., in the daytime; diet consists mainly of insects, spiders, small lizards, etc.; aka **Arizona Desert Hairy Scorpion**; genders difficult to differentiate (males have longer "tails" and broader pincers)

Mojave presence: native

Comments:

Though rarely encountered during daytime hours (thus seldom seen), scorpions of all species are easy to find at night by using a UV light, which causes them to fluoresce a brilliant blue white as shown by this specimen in Dolan Springs, Arizona.

This species is unaggressive, and the venom is not highly potent to humans, but individuals will defend themselves when provoked. I intentionally encouraged this fine fellow to show me some tail, thus displaying its classic defensive posture.



Dolan Springs, Arizona



Dolan Springs, Arizona



Red Rock Canyon NCA; Nevada



Dolan Springs, Arizona



Family **VAEJOVIDAE** (Vaejovid Scorpions)

Lesser Stripetail Scorpion (*Vaejovis coahuilae*)

Measurements:

Ave. Length: 1.5" Leg Span: 2.5"

Distinguishing field characteristics:

very small size; yellow brown to brown; **4 longitudinal stripes** on underside of "tail"; tail composed of 6 short segments

Notes:

common, but rarely seen; occurs in creosote bush scrubland to rocky mountain slopes in the sw US from AZ east to TX, south into n MEX; nocturnal; generally holds its tail curled to the side, except in defense, indicating it burrows or hides under rocks, logs, debris, etc.; characteristic blue-white fluorescence under UV radiation; diet consists mainly of insects and spiders; genders difficult to differentiate (males have smooth, swollen pincers)

Mojave presence: native

Comments:

Rarely encountered during daytime hours (thus seldom seen). I've discovered many specimens at night by using a mid-wave UV light, which causes them to fluoresce a brilliant blue-white.

This species is unaggressive, but individuals will defend themselves when provoked. The sting can be very painful, though short lived (~ half an hour); however, the venom is not highly potent to humans

searching with a UV light . . . found!



Dolan Springs, Arizona



Dolan Springs, AZ



Dolan Springs, Arizona



Dolan Springs, Arizona