

SOLIFUGAE (Solifuges)

Solifuges



(13 Families Worldwide)

Family **AGELLENIDAE** (Windscorpions)

Pale Windscorpion (*Eremobates pallipes*)

Measurements:

Ave. Length: 1.5" Leg Span: 2.5"

Distinguishing field characteristics:

large size; 2 dorsal eyes (centrally located at base of chelicerae); tan cephalothorax (prosoma), grayish opisthosoma (abdomen) with pale sides; 4 pairs of long legs (usually tannish); single pair of long pedipalps that look like a fifth set of legs; very large, bi-segmented chelicerae (with setae in males)

Notes:

common, but nocturnal, thus seldom seen; solitary; found mainly in desert scrublands throughout the sw US from TX west to CA, south into MEX, at low to mid elevations; aka **Sun Spider**, **Camel Spider**, **Solifuge**; very fast; non-venemous; males smaller than females, but have longer legs; diet consists of small animals, including insects, spiders, reptiles, etc.

Mojave presence: native

Comments

Though they appear to be quite formidable and intimidating, windscorpions--or camel spiders--are actually harmless (though they can bite if handled roughly) and very beneficial pest controllers, as they consume large quantities of insects. The one shown here in Dolan Springs, AZ, in July of 2023, captured a flying insect just as I was taking the picture. Timing is everything!

The individuals shown on this page are the only live ones I have seen in the wild. Since they are mainly nocturnal, encounters are uncommon. I found these while I was out looking for scorpions at night, using a mid-wave UV light to illuminate the blue-fluorescing beasts. Little did I know that windscorpions **also** fluoresce, though not as vividly! I have never read any accounts of this characteristic in windscorpions. Now you know!



lurking for dinner

Dolan Springs, AZ



beady eyes

Dolan Springs, AZ



scary beast

Dolan Springs, AZ



big chompers

Dolan Springs, AZ

