

Flinders ranges scorpion (*Urodacus elongatus*) care guide



Urodacus elongatus is Australia's largest **commercially available** scorpion species and is an excellent species to keep due to their hardy nature and calm temperament. Male scorpions have much longer pedipalps (arms) and metasoma (tail) than females and may attain a length of up to 14cm from the eyes to the tip of the aculeus (stinger). Females are shorter and more robust and may reach up to 10cm in length.

These scorpions are endemic to the Flinders ranges in SA and occupy moist gullies and hillsides, living in small burrows called scrapes under rocks and logs. The scorpions may patrol a small area around the scrape at night or lie in wait at the entrance.

Housing:

Flinders ranges scorpions benefit from an enclosure with very little or no ventilation, and slightly moist substrate. Enclosures should be big enough to allow the scorpion to stretch out fully, and ideally at least twice as long as the scorpion is. Provide some source of cover, such as pieces of bark that the scorpion can hide under. A common mistake is adding heating to the enclosure, heating (especially below-tank heat mats) can be fatal to the scorpions. In the wild these scorpions regularly survive in temperatures of 0-5 degrees with no issues.

Food:

These scorpions should be fed appropriately sized crickets (about the length of one of the scorpions claws) once every 1-2 weeks in warmer months, or once every month in cooler months.

Common mistakes:

- Handling; scorpions should never be handled, there is much risk to the scorpion and the person may also be stung, scorpions lack emotions and also receive no benefit from handling.
- Scorpions not eating: Do not panic if your scorpion hasn't eaten in a while, sometimes they simply refuse food or may be about to moult. Scorpions can go many months without food

If you have any more questions please contact us at:

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