

Salt Lake Scorpion (*Australobuthus xerolimniorum*) Care guide



Salt Lake scorpions are a medium-sized scorpion species found in central South Australia on the surface of salt lakes. The body is white or pale yellow, the claws are small and the legs are long.

These scorpions are active nocturnal hunters and spend the night rapidly running around the salt lake searching for food such as resting flies and juveniles of the numerous wolf spider species that also inhabit the lakes. Prey is sensed using pectines on the underside of the scorpion.

These scorpions are best kept on the drier side however in the wild are active when the lake is dry and when the lake is empty, sometimes wading through shallow water.

Housing:

Australobuthus xerolimniorum are not an easily kept species and need a larger enclosure than other scorpions for the following system to work correctly. For long term health they must be kept on red desert sand that is kept as dry as possible to avoid fungal infections, need plenty of leaf litter for cover and require a shallow water dish filled with scoria stones for hydration. One on side of the enclosure the leaf litter should be as thick as possible, this is the side that will remain dry. The other side should be bare sand and in corner have a water dish with scoria. Scoria is a porous volcanic rock that allows water to collect in the small holes in the stone and also allow the scorpion to escape the dish if it should fall in the water. This dish must be kept full at all times. The enclosure must also be well ventilated to avoid the air becoming overly humid.

Given enough space similarly sized individuals can co-exist, however large individuals will eat smaller ones.

Diet:

Scorpions should be fed a cricket $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ to $1/4^{\text{th}}$ the sbody size of the scorpion once a week in warmer months or once a fortnight in cooler months. If housing multiple scorpions together they may need to be fed more often.

Temperature:

Scorpions will survive temperature from 5-35 degrees Celsius, but prefer 15-25 degrees