

Species: *longimanus*  
 Genus: *Heterometrus*  
 Family: Scorpionidae  
 Order: Scorpiones  
 Class: Arachnida  
 Phylum: Arthropoda  
 Kingdom: Animalia



# Asian Forest Scorpion

## Conditions for Customer Ownership

Ward's is a USDA compliant facility and holds all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns.

Live specimens should not be released into the wild.

Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

## Primary Hazard Considerations

These scorpions can be gently handled, but if they feel threatened, they will sting. The venom is mild and not dangerous to humans, but as with any stinging animal, there is always the possibility of an allergic reaction. The sting is similar in strength to a bee or wasp sting. They can also give a good pinch with their claws. It is not recommended that students handle this species.

## Availability

Scorpions are generally available throughout the year.

## Arrival

Your scorpion is shipped in a plastic container with sphagnum moss as cushioning. It should be placed in a prepared habitat upon arrival. It may be riled up a bit from shipping, but will settle down when allowed to rest. You can lower the container into the habitat and gently push the scorpion out with a utensil. Remove the sphagnum, it is for shipping purposes only.

## Captive Care

### Habitat:

Use a plastic Terrarium ([470150-598](#)) or a 10 gallon glass terrarium with a vented top. Fill the bottom with 3-4 inches of Coco Husk ([470308-876](#)) or organic soil without fertilizer. Provide plenty of hiding spaces using bark pieces, small rocks or plastic "furniture". It is not recommended to keep more than one scorpion per container, unless there is ample room, plenty of hiding spaces and food.

**Note:** Scorpions can't climb up the sides of the container.

### Food:

Feed one or two of the following, 2 times per week. Crickets ([470180-328](#)) or Mealworms ([470176-752](#)) or other similar-sized, crawling insects. If the sides of the abdomen on your scorpion begin to expand revealing the lighter colored pleural membrane between the segments, it may be getting too much to eat. Refrain from feeding it for a couple of weeks. Scorpions will just keep eating whenever they are fed and don't know when to stop.

**Water:**

Provide your scorpion with a shallow dish of water, pushed into the soil so that they can climb in. It is good to put a little bit of clean gravel in the dish for them to walk on. Make sure they can get out.

**Care:**

Spot clean the habitat weekly, removing any leftover food debris. Clean and refill the water dish as needed. Change the substrate about every 6 months.

**Temperature and Humidity:**

These are tropical scorpions so they should be kept at 75 to 85°F and a relatively high humidity. A basking lamp ([470007-308](#)) or heat mat ([470308-860](#)) can be placed on one side of the terrarium, giving the scorpion a choice to move toward or away from the heat. Humidity can be maintained by spraying lightly with water or keeping one side of the substrate damp.

**Health**

Scorpions can develop a fungal infection, especially around the venom bulb on the end of the tail. If you see a whitish growth, try drying up the habitat for a couple of weeks. You can wipe the area with a swab dipped in a diluted hydrogen peroxide solution and then dry it with another swab.

**Life Cycle**

Scorpions reproduce sexually, with the transfer of a spermatophore. They display a very elaborate courtship ritual. These scorpions develop eggs that hatch within the mother. She then gives birth to live young. The babies ride around on their mother's back until their first molt.

Asian Forest scorpions can grow up to 5 inches in body length and can live up to 8 years.

**Wild Habitat**

Asian Forest Scorpions are widespread and are found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia.

**Interesting Facts**

Scorpions molt and are vulnerable until their exoskeleton hardens.

A substance in the scorpion's exoskeleton glows under UV light. Scientists are not sure what the purpose of this is. Exposing them to UV light for demonstration purposes is OK, but it is not good for them to be exposed for extended periods.

The sex of a mature scorpion can be determined from the pectines, the comb-like structures on the underside of the abdomen. In the males, these are larger and more "feathery".

Scorpions are nocturnal. They have very poor eyesight.

**Disposition**

Ward's does not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild. Adoption to a knowledgeable, responsible person is the preferred disposition method.

If the scorpion must be euthanized at the end of study, place it in the refrigerator overnight then transfer it to the freezer for 24 - 48 hours.

A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal.

In general, dead specimens should be handled as little as possible or with gloves, wrapped in an opaque plastic bag that is sealed before being placed in a garbage container away from students.