



Perth Rock Scorpion

Urodacus planimanus

Perth rock scorpions are commonly found in hills around Perth, WA. Living in mesic conditions and growing to around 60 - 80mm in length. They live very similar to both *U. manicatus* and *U. elongatus* in that they live around rocks and make shallow scrape burrows underneath large rocks. They are a sexually dimorphic species in that the male will have a longer tail and more developed tail spines.

Like other scorpions within the *Urodacus* genus the Perth Rock scorpion has a mild venom it is similar in pain to that of the rest within the genus. refer to Flinders Ranges care guide for pain description. Like all Australian scorpions they are not considered medically significant, though if symptoms get worse or concerning seek medical attention immediately!

Invertebrates including scorpions grow by shedding their exoskeleton this is known as ecdysis or moulting. Other invertebrates may continue to moult throughout their whole lives while *Urodacus* Scorpions will only moult a total number of 5 times throughout their whole lives, as follows: 1st instar(newborn), 2nd instar(4 weeks), 3rd instar(1year), 4th instar(2years), 5th instar(3years), 6th instar(4 years - Adult). they usually moult at night out of the way with less chance of being disturbed.

Maternal:

Urodacus scorpions have very long gestation periods, which can last from 12 - 18 months. This species can have 40 babies and give live birth. They move onto mum's back shortly after birth which will help them self regulate moisture absorption, they'll remain there for several weeks before dispersing to begin life on their own.

No food should be offered to mum and babies during this period.

Once they disperse only then should they be individually separated and fed a cricket leg each and mum fed up to regain nutrients.

If they seem to disperse too early before they've moulted it could be that mum is losing moisture content so she is opting for her survival over maternal care. If this happens mist mums enclosure and just put all the babies in a separate one fully sealed and similar setting to that of the mums, do not offer them food until they moult to 2nd instar and darken.

Food:

Live prey weekly, although pre-killed prey may also be accepted.

Crickets and cockroaches are the best choice of feeder for pretty much all predatory invertebrates, but you can use other things like mealworms but they have more fatty content and are best spared for as a snack. They can handle large prey especially bigger size scorpions as they will overpower it with both their large claws and then also use venom from their sting to assist by paralysing the prey for them.

Water:

Keep the substrate misted and damp enough so that it holds humidity and can hold shape when you grab some in your hand. Your scorpion will drink by absorbing moisture from their substrate in through layers in their cuticle so they don't require a water bowl, regular misting of the enclosure and a good water gradient will be best so that the scorpion can self regulate as it pleases/needs.

Enclosure:

This species is quite suited to captivity more similar to *U. elongatus* in most respects so you can use plastic tubs or a glass terrarium it's really up to you and your wants or needs depending how you want to display and how many you choose to keep etc but along as you have met the right requirements there is many options available. You will want to have good ventilation at least on one side to help with making a water gradient so that your scorpion can self regulate as if it pleases and it helps to have the more humid area non ventilated fully enclosed so I find tubs are great for this easy customisation. About roughly 30cm x 30cm is a good size but can get away with being slightly smaller.

Substrate:

Mix peat moss with water till it clumps and holds but doesn't drip excess water out then mix through dry sand to a 50/50 ratio in the bottom of the enclosure at a depth of around 3-5 cm.

Place a flat rock, bark, leaf litter and other forms of hides and decorations in the enclosure so your scorpion can take refuge and have a good place to ambush prey.

Temperature:

The best temperatures are 15 - 25°C, with 25°C being optimal.

Handling:

They can be handled but never will become completely complacent when doing so and keep in mind that they still have the mildly venomous sting as well.

