



Flinders Ranges Scorpion

Urodacus elongatus

Flinders Ranges Scorpions are found in South Australia, they live in damp places in valley areas of the Flinders Ranges, under rocks by digging a little burrow/scrape that allows them to hide away from predators. They will seal off their scrape entrance in summer to protect against heat and water loss and during this time is when ecdysis (moulting) takes place. After the hot season scorpions start to appear at their scrape entrances again.

Like other scorpions within the *Urodacus* genus the Flinders Ranges scorpion has a mild venom that isn't that potent being less painful and lasting less time than a honey bee sting but although they can get quite itchy. 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) -based off *U. yaschenkoi* but typical for *Urodacus*. 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 up to 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.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

Spot clean and remove any uneaten food or leftovers after 24 hours also remove any mould or fungi that starts to grow in the enclosure. If left too long and you have an outbreak that spreads right through it is best to clean out and redo with fresh substrate otherwise if you keep on top of it your substrate should be great for years to come.

Enclosure:

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 as long as you have met the right requirements there are 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.

Handling:

They are mildly venomous although it's very mild and does sting for a moment but not very much at all, the worst part is the itchiness a bit later, if you chose to handle though it is at your own risk and it is at your own responsibility.

If you do choose to hold your scorpion, grabbing it by the sting is the best method to do so.

Temperature:

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

Common Issues:

The adult female of this species is a particularly aggressive individual and won't tolerate any other scorpion in her vicinity, which can be observed even more so when she is gravid.

Life Span:

8-12 Years

