

Invertebrates

Invertebrates are an enormous group, and there are undoubtedly dozens upon dozens of species not yet documented on iNaturalist in the preserve. These are only the most common and most noteworthy based on observations to date. The invertebrates in this guide have been separated into three categories:

Arachnids (Page 71)

Insects (Page 78)

Others (Page 108)

Arachnids

Scorpions and tarantulas are quite common in the preserve, especially for visitors venturing out at night on warm days. An ultraviolet (black) light flashlight is a great tool for spotting scorpions - they fluoresce a vivid blue-green color that makes them stand out when they would otherwise be very difficult to see. Scorpions and many spiders can be dangerous. Do not attempt to handle any of them!

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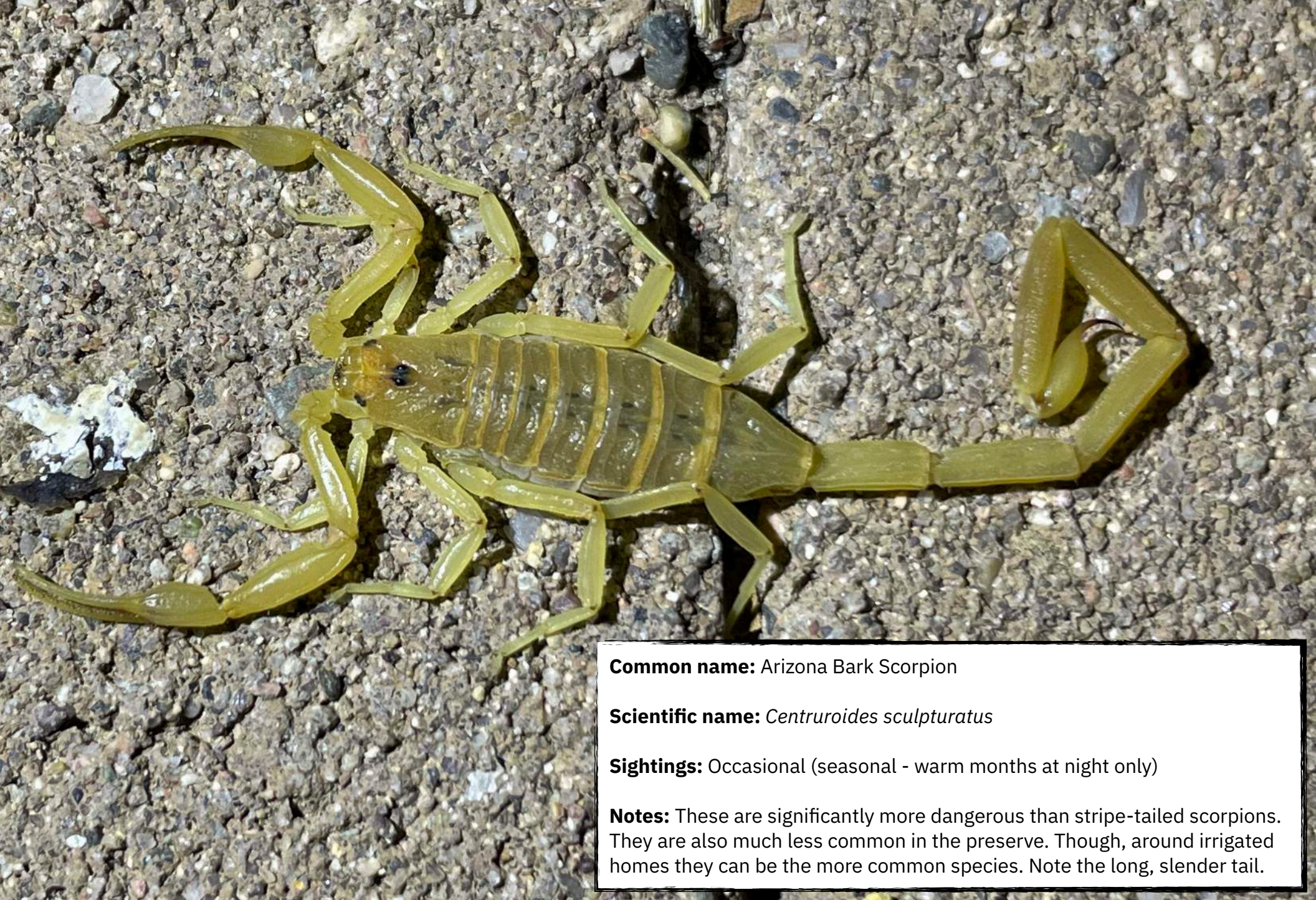


Common name: Stripe-tailed Scorpion

Scientific name: *Paravaejovis spinigerus*

Sightings: Abundant (seasonal - warm months at night only)

Notes: Easily the most common scorpion in the preserve, these can be seen on and alongside the concrete paths at night throughout the warm months. Their sting is painful but typically not dangerous. Note the brown stripes on the relatively thick tail.



Common name: Arizona Bark Scorpion

Scientific name: *Centruroides sculpturatus*

Sightings: Occasional (seasonal - warm months at night only)

Notes: These are significantly more dangerous than stripe-tailed scorpions. They are also much less common in the preserve. Though, around irrigated homes they can be the more common species. Note the long, slender tail.



Common name: Tailless Whip Scorpion

Scientific name: *Paraphrynus carolynae*

Sightings: Uncommon (seasonal - warm months at night only)

Notes: Hard to spot and uncommon, these arachnids are completely harmless and cannot sting. They have been observed several times in the north part of the preserve.



Common name: Carolina Wolf Spider

Scientific name: *Hogna carolinensis*

Sightings: Abundant (seasonal - warm months at night only)

Notes: These are the most visible spiders in the preserve. These spiders hunt on the trails at night. They have extremely reflective eyes. If you are out wearing a headlamp at night you are likely to spot them by the light reflecting off their eyes. Some can get quite large, but not as big as tarantulas.

Common name: Desert
Blonde Tarantula

Scientific name:
Aphonopelma chalcodes

Sightings: Common
(seasonal - warm months
at night only)

Notes: Large, hairy, and
unmistakable, these
impressive spiders are
most often out and away
from their burrows
during the monsoon. The
spider pictured is a
female. Males are lankier
and generally have
darker hair.





Not Pictured

The species above (a solifuge and three spiders) have been observed in the preserve, but not yet definitively identified. Many other species also live here. Black widows and giant crab spiders have been recorded, but are not pictured in this guide.