

CENTIPEDES

Scutigera coleoptrata



PEST STATS

Color: Yellowish to dark brown, sometimes with darker stripes or markings

Legs: 15 - 177 pairs

Shape: Elongated, flattened, worm-like

Size: 1/8 – 6" (4-152 mm)

Antennae: Yes

Region: Found throughout U.S.

Centipedes are sometimes called "hundred-leggers" because of their many pairs of legs, but they can actually have anywhere from 15-177 pairs of legs, depending on the species. Interestingly, centipedes always have an odd number of pairs of legs.

Habits

Most house centipedes are nocturnal, and prey primarily on flies, spiders, and sometimes plant tissue.

Habitat

Centipedes are found throughout the United States and the world. They are typically found in areas of high moisture, such as in rotting logs, under stones, in trash or piles of leaves/grass.

When they invade homes, centipedes are most commonly found in damp basements, crawlspaces, bathrooms, or potted plants.

Threats

Centipedes are generally considered nuisance pests, as they do not pose significant health or property threats. However, all house centipedes have poison jaws with which they inject venom into their prey. If handled roughly, some larger species can inflict a painful bite that can break human skin and causes pain and swelling, similar to a bee sting.