

striped bark scorpion

Centruroides vittatus

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Arachnida
Order: Scorpiones
Family: Buthidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

endangered, native



adult

FEATURES

The striped bark scorpion, like all scorpions, has eight legs, a cephalothorax and a segmented abdomen. A pair of large pincerlike appendages, used to catch prey, are present at the front of the body. The tail ends in a stinger that is usually carried up and over the body. The adult striped scorpion may attain a length of about three inches. Its body coloration can vary somewhat but is basically yellow-brown with a dark triangle between the eyes and two, dark, longitudinal stripes along the back. The venom produced by this species has a low toxicity.

BEHAVIORS

The striped bark scorpion may be found in southwestern Illinois. It lives in places with crevices, like rocky areas and woods, and also in open, grassy areas. Active at night, it hunts and eats arthropods, like spiders and insects. Small prey is eaten immediately. Large prey is stung with venom and eaten after it stops moving. This animal's defense mechanism is to sting while running away. The female produces 50 or more young per brood. Born live, the young are carried on her back for five to 15 days. After that time they are on their own. Maturity is reached in 36 to 48 months. Adults live two to five years.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge; hill prairie