
SCORPION SPOTLIGHT
LEE M BENEY

Sexing:

Pectines 28-34 teeth in females & 32-39 teeth in males. Females tend to have a wider stockier bodie than males & males tend to have larger pincers.

(see picture below) Male on Right & Female on Left, The Pectines on females wont go past the 1st joint on the back leg, Operculums are inverted & opposite way around.

Set up in Captivity:

Hadrurus arizonensis are a very active species & are always busy digging / Re arranging there enclosure.

Substrate needs to be at least 5-6 inches of a mix of sand/topsoil & excavator clay, ratio of 70% sand 20% clay with 10% topsoil so they can dig down to make burrows/tunnels as they would in the wild.

Ensure small water dish is avaliable & overfill now & again so a section of the subsrate in the enclosure is going to be more humid underneath, this will help when it comes to the molting process in captivity. You can also use Tim Baxters straw method where on one side of the enclosure you simply place a straw into the subsrate & put water into this every now & again.

Ideal Temperature 28-32C , how can you achieve this? oil filled radiator with inbuilt thermostat or if your collection is smaller a heat Mat / cable with a Thermostat attached to the side of the enclosure.

Feeding:

Feed a good sized prey item once every 2 weeks for adult Scorpions such as Crickets / Roaches as these have more nutritional value. Ensure your feeders are gut loaded so your arizonensis is getting all it needs when it comes to feeding.

For Scorplings feed once or twice a week on fruit flys, pin head crickets depending on the scorplings size, you can pre kill prey too. Tools that will help with tiny feeders such as pin head crickets is called a pooter & these are cheap from amazon / ebay.

Molting:

Molting is a stressful time for any genus of scorpion, typically they will go through this process between 5-7 times in there lifespan. When you see i2/i3 being used for example this is called instar & its how we track how old that species would be after each successful molt.

If your arizonensis is hidden for a long period of time dont worry & try to dig them out, it could be molting or you just have a happy content scorpion that has found a safe place.

After a successful molt you want to ensure water dish is always full and leave feeding until there exoskeleton has hardened up, normally between 1 - 2 weeks.

Binomial Name:

Hadrurus arizonensis

Order: *Scorpiones*

Family: *Hadruridae*

Genus: *Hadrurus*

Species: arizonensis

Other Species under the Genus Hadrurus:

arizonensis pallidus, spadix, obscrus & anzaborrego.

Location

North America with distribution ranging throughout Arizona in the Sonoran desert & Mojave desert in California, also flanking into the Gulf of California in Mexico. This species can also be found in southern Nevada & Utah.

Description

Hadrurus arizonensis is the largest scorpion in America with an adult size of 140mm or 5.5 inches from the start of the carapace to the end of the telson.

A desert Burrowing species that can build deep burrows in the wild as far down as 2 metres or more, these burrows will be humid at the deepest point due to both fresh & sea water coming from the Gulf of California underneath the desert landscape in the forms of springs, seeps & tinajas.

The humidity will be a great benefit during the hot summer months in the sonoran desert with temps reaching between 40-48C in the day time heat, also the humidity in the arizonensis burrow will be helping when the scorpion needs to go through its molting process into its new Exoskeleton.

The diet of the Hadrurus arizonensis in the wild will comprise of Large insects, spiders & other Vertebrates, but also other scorpions species such as Hoffmannuis confusus & spinigerus, Smeringurus mesaensis for example that live within the same habitat.

Currently in Captivity Tim Baxtor who is on the committe for the British Tarantula Society is trialing using his own scorpions that have unfortantly died naturally & using these as prey items for his Hadrurus Species to see if this is one of the reasons that captive breeding for the arizonesis hasnt been as successful so far. Is the diet correct in capivity or is something missing when it comes to the Hadrurus Genus?