

Mrs Pincers



Species:	Asian Forest Scorpion (<i>Heterometrus longimanus</i>)
Habitat:	Southern Asia. Found on the rainforest floor amongst rocks and logs.
How we look after our pet:	A tank with a heat mat underneath to keep them warm enough, lots of special soil and places to hide. She needs to be kept warm and damp, like the rainforest.
Food:	Carnivorous—likes crickets and locusts.
Characteristics:	Scorpions are arachnids—they have 8 legs. They have 2 eyes at the front, and more eyes down the side of their body! Their most recognisable features are their stinging tail and big pincers.
Why we love Mrs Pincers:	We love how she can make herself look very, very small, or can stretch out and use her claws and tail to make herself look much bigger.

Mrs Pincers's Story

Mrs Pincers' came to Rachael in 2018 from another Lion Learners presenter, who sadly had to leave us. She is not yet fully grown.

It is really interesting having the opportunity to watch Mrs Pincers, especially in the evenings when she becomes much more active. In the daytime, she often spends a lot of time in her hide or under her log, but at night she will prowl around a lot. Although scorpions have many eyes (2 on the front, and another 2-5 pairs down the side of the body) their eyesight is not the best, but they are very good at sensing movements, therefore good at catching their prey.

Scorpions glow under an ultra-violet light. The glow comes from a substance found in the scorpions exoskeleton. Theories about why this is include that it helps scorpions to find each other, and that it might confuse their prey. However, it is known that scorpions do avoid uv light, and are less active during the full moon or when the moon is particularly bright, so some scientists believe that the glow may be telling them when it is not safe to come to the surface.

Scorpions can sting with their tail, but as Mrs Pincers is an Asian Forest Scorpion, her venom is only mild.

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