

House Centipede



House centipede

Typical Location Where Observed: Indoors, crawling on the floor. They are usually noticed when turning the light on in a previously darkened room.

Importance/Damage: An arthropod sometimes found in buildings with unusual appearance.

Distinguishing Features: The house centipede has 15 pairs of extraordinarily long

legs, the last pair often exceeding the body length. The overall body is usually grayish-yellow and marked with three stripes running longitudinally. Banding also occurs on the legs.

A pair of very long antennae protrude from the head. The eyes, although not prominent, are larger than found with most other centipedes. Full-grown the body length typically ranges from 1- 1 ½ inches (2.5-4 cm); with the legs and antennae extended it may be 3-4 inches (8-10 cm).

Life History and Habits: Typical of all centipedes, the house centipede is a predator of insects and other small invertebrates. They are normally active at night but may hunt during the day in dark indoor rooms. The house centipede is the only centipede that can adapt to indoor life, provided it has some access to moisture.

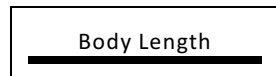
House centipedes are not aggressive and will bite only if physically confined. The mouthparts (including the maxillipeds) are fairly weak and can only penetrate skin with difficulty. The bites are reportedly mildly painful.

Scientific Name: *Scutigera coleoptrata*

Class: Chilopoda (Centipedes)

Order: Scutigromorpha (House Centipedes)

Family: Scutigeridae (House Centipedes)



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