

# Blind Pseudoscorpion



## What does a pseudoscorpion look like?

Pseudoscorpions, literally 'false scorpions', are small (most are about 1/5 inch long) and reddish or brown. They have oval, flattened bodies with two pinchers. When they walk, they often appear crab-like. They can move as quickly backward as they move forward. Pseudoscorpions are a type of arachnid and are related to spiders, ticks, scorpions, and mites. Without their large pinchers, pseudoscorpions look very much like ticks. Pseudoscorpions are similar to scorpions, but lack the long tail and stinger that is common to scorpions.

# What habitat does the blind pseudoscorpion like?



Pseudoscorpions live in many different types of habitats, including forests, grasslands, sand dunes, and seashores. Blind pseudoscorpions live in caves where it is dark. They prefer to live in crevices and similar small spaces that can be found in a cave. Many pseudoscorpions favor sites with high humidity, although some species can tolerate dry conditions.

## What do pseudoscorpions eat?

These 'false scorpions' feed on many types of small insects and other arthropods, including thrips, beetle larvae, springtails and mites.



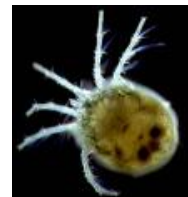
Thrips



Beetle larvae



Springtail



Mites

# How do they catch their prey?

Many aggressively stalk their prey while others prefer to ambush insects. **Blind pseudoscorpions** use sensory hairs on their pinchers to sense when prey is nearby. When a small insect brushes against these sensory hairs, it triggers a reaction to seize the insect. Most pseudoscorpions have poison glands in their pincher-like claws, which they use to paralyze prey. They inject saliva into the victim; the pseudoscorpion then feeds on the liquefied contents.



Underneath side of blind pseudoscorpion.



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## What are the mating habits of a pseudoscorpion?

The female produces 20 to 40 eggs that she carries beneath her abdomen. After the young pseudoscorpions emerge, they stay with the female for several days, sometimes riding on her back. The entire brood then disperses. This process, from egg deposit to brood dispersal, can take 3 weeks.

The young pseudoscorpions molt three times before adulthood; these stages are protonymph, deutonymph, and tritonymph. The developmental period is temperature dependent and takes 10 to 24 months. Adults do not molt and can live for 3 or 4 years.

Older pseudoscorpions are less agile. They often have difficulty climbing smooth surfaces and are less likely to right themselves after flipping onto their backs. These factors, plus their increased visibility due to their large size, may explain why only adult specimens are submitted for identification.



Pseudoscorpion  
with egg sac.