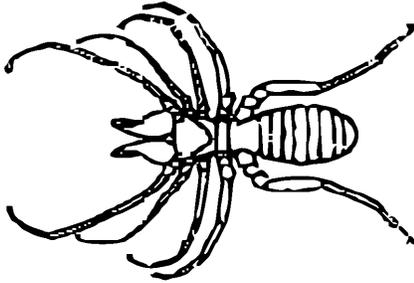


# Windscorpions

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## Introduction

Windscorpions are in the phylum Arthropoda (animals with jointed legs and a hard outer skeleton), class Arachnida (animals with four pairs of legs, and only two body regions), and the order Solifugae. The order name comes from *sol* (sun) and *fugae* (flee), referring to their nocturnal habits. They are called by a variety of other names, such as: windscorpions (*they run "like the wind"*), sunscorpions (they are found in sunny deserts), sunspiders, camelspiders and solifuges. They can bite

if provoked, but they do not have poison glands. There are about 120 species in North America occurring mainly in arid or desert regions of the Western United States.

## Description

Windscorpions are  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, usually pale in color and somewhat hairy. The pedipalps and first pair of legs are used as feelers, and the last three pairs of legs are used for running. The body is slightly constricted in the middle and the abdomen is fairly large. One of their most distinctive features is their very large chelicerae or pincer-like appendages on the head that gives them a ferocious appearance.

## Habits

Windscorpions are largely nocturnal, hiding during the day and feeding at night. They are predacious and able to run very fast. Windscorpions are such voracious feeders that they sometimes capture and eat small lizards.

## Control

These organisms are more of a nuisance or oddity than a pest. Destruction or relocation of the offending individual is all that is usually needed for control.

Entomology 314 (L.D.\*)

December 1995

\* L.D. - A Limited Distribution Publication  
Not available from Distribution Center



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