

A Bug's Life

Centipedes

Class: Chilopoda; Stone centipede Order: Lithobiomorpha;
House centipede Order - Scutigerae; Soil centipede Order - Geophilomorpha

Fun facts

- Predatory soil arthropods
- Most are venomous and can inflict painful bites
- Centipedes have varying number of legs, but never 100
- Require moist microhabitat so usually found under rocks, under logs and leaf litter

Identification

Vary in length and number of legs, flattened, 1 pair of legs per body segment, can be a variety of colors, moves very fast

Stone: Reddish-brown, 15 pairs of legs

House: brown-gray with stripes, 15 pair of long, hair-like legs

Management

- Physical exclusion - caulking and sealing holes, screening, door seals
- Trap with glue boards, sweep or vacuum them up
- Reduce moisture and humidity
- Perimeter spray of insecticide to exterior of home to decrease prey items that attract centipedes



Stone centipede



House centipede



Soil centipede

Photos: J. Green