



Ever wondered about the fascinating creature known as the scorpion fly? These unique insects get their name from their long, scorpion-like tails, but don't worry, they're not as scary as they sound! Scorpion flies have a long beak-like mouth, two pairs of wings, and an elongated body that ends with a tail that resembles a scorpion's stinger. Despite their intimidating appearance, these insects are completely harmless to humans.

Now, you might be wondering where these winged wonders like to call home. Scorpion flies are found all over the world, from the forests of Asia and Europe to the grasslands of North America. They prefer moist environments and are often found in damp, overgrown areas where they can hide from predators. Interesting, isn't it? Scorpion flies can adapt and live in diverse environments!



Speaking of predators, let's dive into the fascinating diet and defenses of our scorpion fly friends. These insects are scavengers and enjoy feasting on dead insects, plant material, and sometimes even fruits. When faced with danger, scorpion flies use their scorpion-like tails as a defense mechanism to scare off predators. However, this tail is all for show, as unlike real scorpions, scorpion flies don't have any venom.



Finally, let's explore the life cycle of these intriguing insects. Scorpion flies go through a process called metamorphosis, where they change from a tiny egg to a larva, then to a pupa before finally becoming an adult scorpion fly. This process is a common aspect among insects but it's always exciting to learn about. And there you have it, a peek into the fascinating life of scorpion flies, insects that are as interesting as they are unique!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Can a scorpion fly hurt a human?
 - A. Yes, a scorpion fly sting is very painful.
 - B. No, scorpion flies are harmless to humans.
 - C. Yes, their sting has venom.
 - D. Yes, scorpion flies carry harmful diseases.
- 2) Where would you most likely find scorpion flies in the wild?
 - A. Mountains of South America
 - B. Jungles of Antarctica
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 - D. Forests of Asia
- 3) Can scorpion flies be found in overgrown areas?
 - A. No, they can only be found in open, sunny areas.
 - B. No, they avoid overgrown areas because of predators.
 - C. No, overgrown areas are too wet for them.
 - D. Yes, Scorpion flies are often found in damp, overgrown areas.
- 4) How many wings do scorpion flies have?
 - A. 8 wings
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 - A. They release a stinky smell to deter predators.
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- 9) Do scorpion flies' tails have venom?
- A. They only have venom in certain seasons B. No, they don't have any venom
- C. Yes, they are very venomous D. They only produce venom when they are older
- 10) Why is the insect called a scorpion fly?
- A. Because it is a type of scorpion. B. Because it eats scorpions.
- C. Because it can sting like a scorpion. D. Because it has a long, scorpion-like tail.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I know it sounds a bit yucky, but as a scavenger, I enjoy feasting on dead insects."
- 12) "Metamorphosis, where I transform from a tiny egg to an adult fly, is a common thing we insects do."
- 13) "My tail is not only for show, it's a real weapon."
- 14) "I love making my home in damp, overgrown areas where I can easily hide from predators."
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- 16) "It's true, my intimidating tail is great at scaring off animals that might see me as a tasty snack."
- 17) "My tail has venom just like a real scorpion."
- 18) "Even though I look fierce with my scorpion-like tail, I can't hurt humans."
- 19) "My long curved tail makes me look like a scorpion, but I promise I'm not as scary."
- 20) "You can only find me in the deserts."
- 21) "I am a carnivorous insect, hunting for my food."
- 22) "From Asia to Europe to North America, I've made myself comfortable all around the world."
- 23) "Although my tail might make it look like I have venom, actually, I don't."
- 24) "I love living in dry environments."
- 25) "Plant material and fruits are not part of my diet."
- 26) "I start my life as a tiny egg, then become a larva and a pupa, before I finally turn into a scorpion fly."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 27) Scorpion flies are flexible and can adapt to live in a variety of environments.
- 28) The fact that scorpion flies defense mechanism do not involve stinging is surprising.
- 29) You can find Scorpion flies all around the world.
- 30) Scorpion flies are interesting not only because they look like scorpions, but because they also have a unique diet.
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- 32) The fact that scorpion flies live in overgrown areas is interesting.
- 33) The tail of a scorpion fly does not contain any venom.
- 34) Scorpion flies do not pose any harm to humans.
- 35) Scorpion flies surely have the most scary-looking tails.
- 36) The long beak-like mouth of a scorpion fly is cool looking.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 37) Scorpion flies enjoy eating fruits.
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|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>B</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>D</u> | 27. <u>fact</u> | 52. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 3. <u>D</u> | 28. <u>opinion</u> | 53. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u> | |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u> | |
| 22. <u>true</u> | 47. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 23. <u>true</u> | 48. <u>interrogative</u> | |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>declarative</u> | |



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