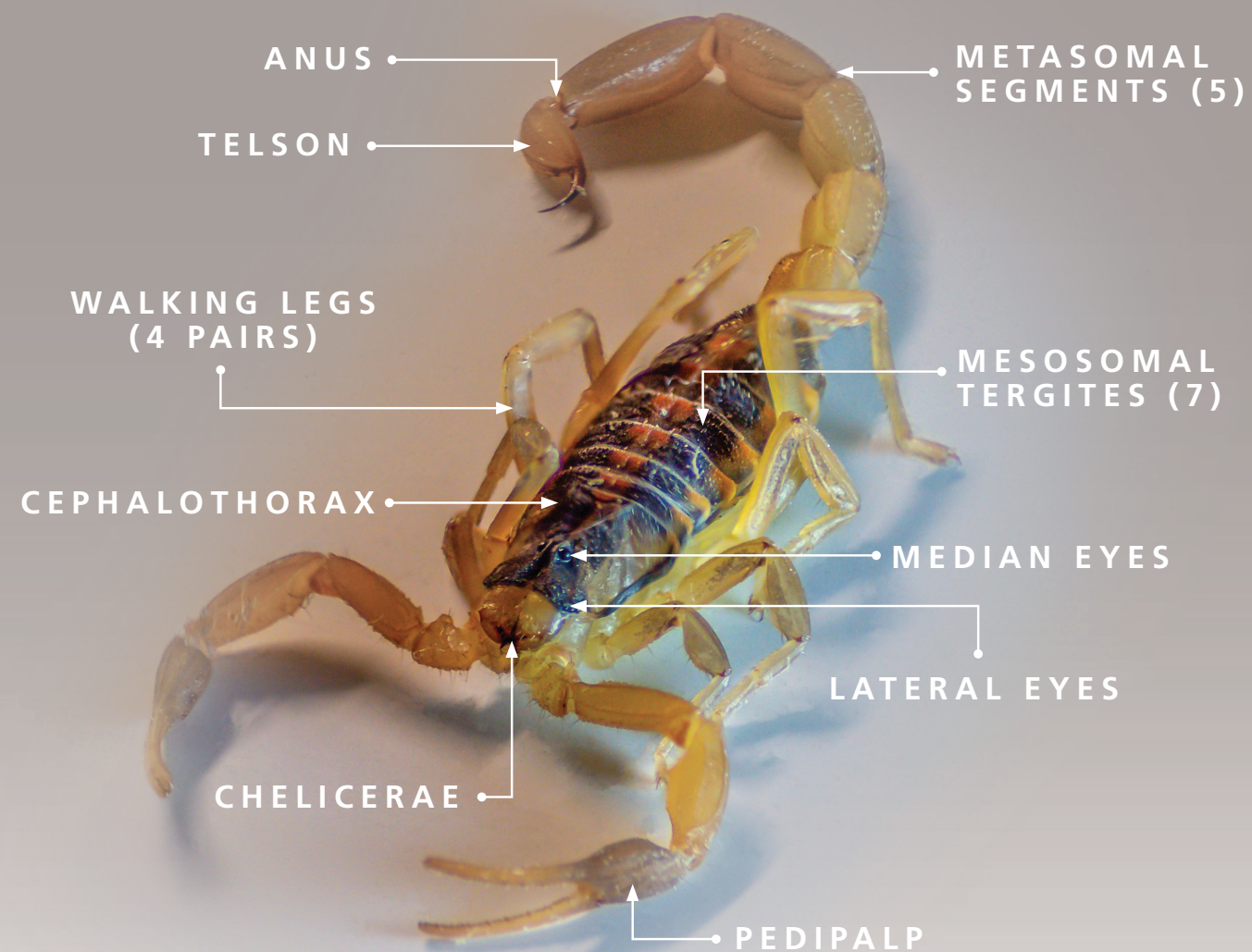


SCORPION

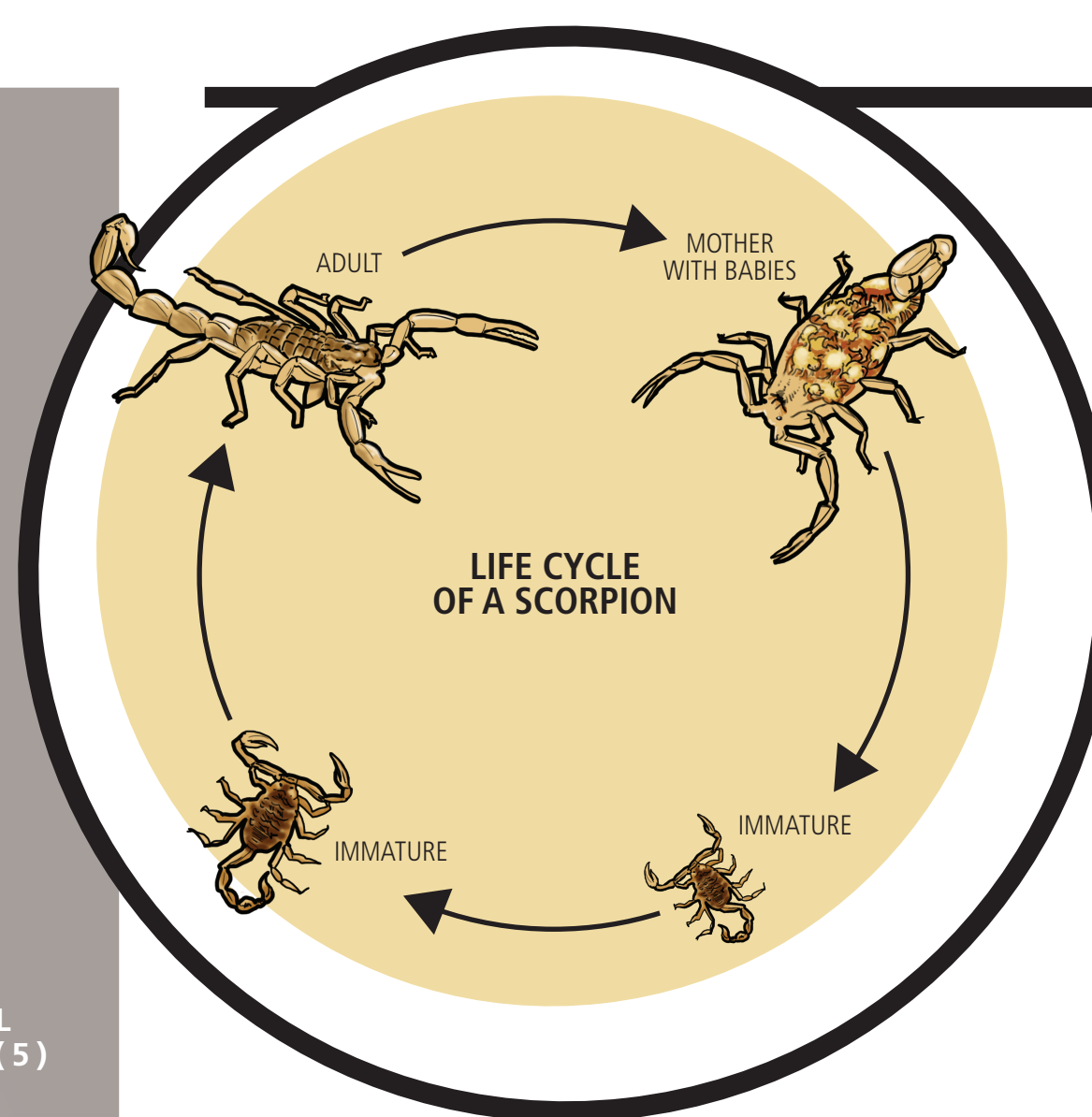
CLASS: ARACHNIDA
ORDER: SCORPIONES

Scorpions are well-adapted for surviving in a wide range of habitats including deserts, grasslands, savannas, and both temperate and tropical forests. In large part, these adaptations are due to behavioral thermoregulation, low metabolic rates, and high efficiency in conserving water. In the United States, scorpions are most commonly found from the desert areas of the Southwest to the Carolinas south to Florida. However, a few species may range as far north as Maryland and Missouri west to California.



DESCRIPTION

Scorpions have broad, flat bodies with eight legs, and are close relatives of spiders. Adults are 2 to 5 inches long and readily identified by their two pincer-like pedipalps at the front of their bodies and the five-segmented stinger-tipped tail (telson) at the back. Depending on the species, scorpions range in color from the mustard yellow of the bark scorpion to the dark brown of the southern unstriped scorpion to the glossy black of some species. Most structure-infesting species are yellowish-brown in color, often with stripes.



LIFE CYCLE

- Simple metamorphosis
- Complex mating ritual ("courtship dance")
- Long gestation period (several months to more than a year)
- Female gives birth to live young
- Average brood size for all scorpions is about 26, but it can range from 1 to 105
- The sex ratio at birth is about equal
- Female carries her offspring on her back until first molt
- Prior to their first molt, scorpplings obtain water from their mother's cuticle for survival
- Second instar in most cases leave the mother shortly after they molt
- Scorpplings undergo an average of 5 to 6 molts over 2 to 6 years before reaching maturity

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN | 2 TO 5 YEARS, BUT IT CAN TAKE 6 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS TO BECOME AN ADULT

BEHAVIOR

Scorpions are burrowing animals that are active at night, feeding on insects, spiders, small lizards and other scorpions. During the day, they hide beneath stones and tree bark, within rock and wood piles, and in masonry cracks. They enter structures seeking moisture, shelter, and prey and are frequently found in bathrooms, crawlspaces, attics, and hiding in clothes and shoes left on the floor. Most scorpions live on or very near the ground and are poor climbers. The major exception is the large and important family Buthidae (bark scorpions) in which the species are often excellent climbers. Upon entering houses, these species are likely to be seen on the walls and even ceilings, not infrequently gaining access to the upper floors of multistory buildings.

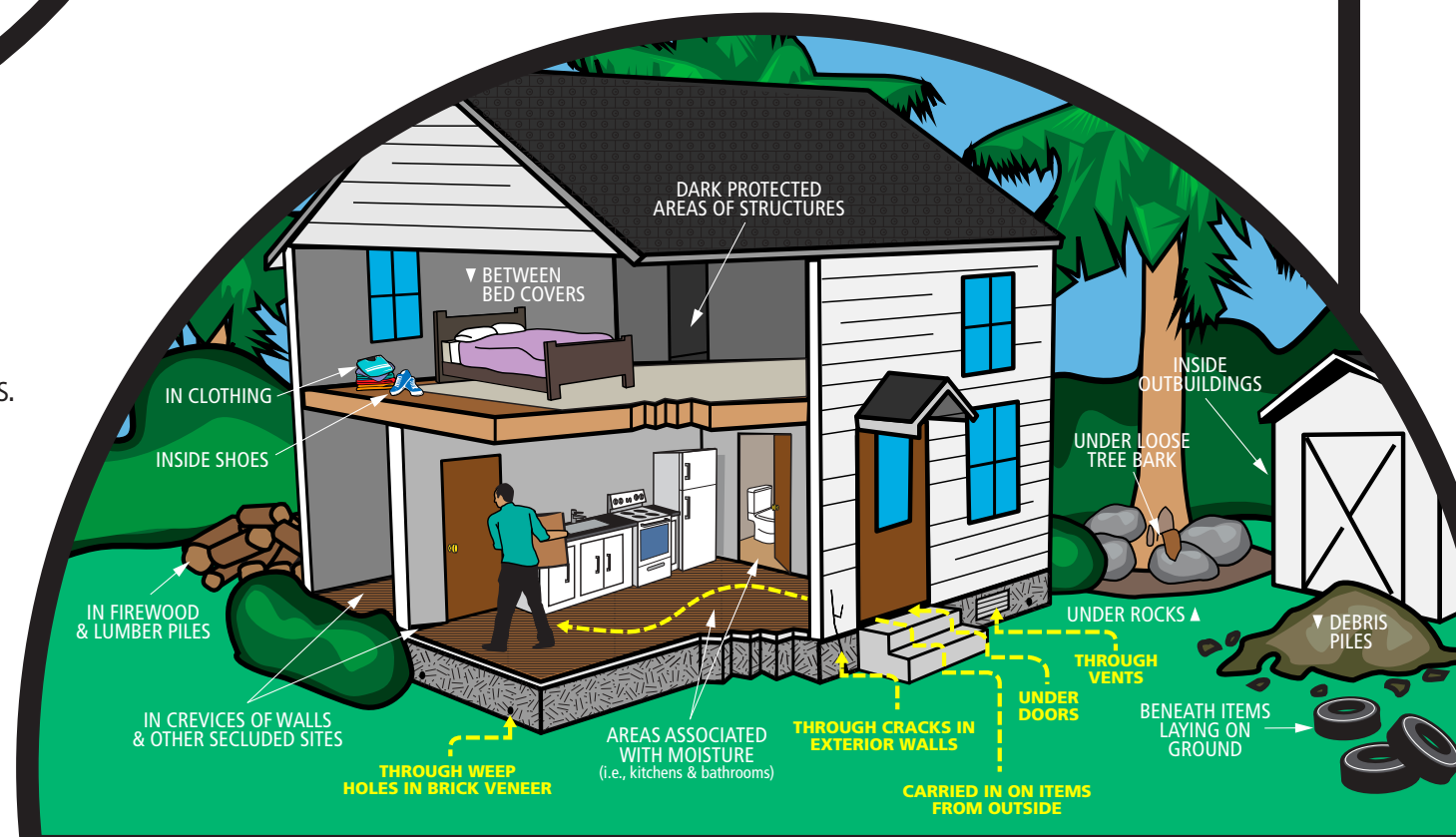
FAVORITE FOODS: SPIDERS AND INSECTS

HUNTING STYLE: AMBUSH PREDATORS

CONTROL

- Inspection
- Sanitation & Harborage Removal (i.e., trash piles, stones, boards, firewood, landscape timbers, debris, etc.)
- Exclusion (i.e., seal openings or crevices in outside walls; place weather stripping around doors, windows and vents; install tight-fitting screens)
- Residual Treatments

See protocol for treatment indoors and outdoors.



COMMON HARBORAGE SITES

INDOORS:

- DARK, PROTECTED AREAS OF STRUCTURES
- INSIDE SHOES
- BETWEEN BED COVERS
- IN CLOTHING
- IN CREVICES OF WALLS AND OTHER SECLUDED SITES
- AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH MOISTURE (i.e., kitchens and bathrooms)

OUTDOORS:

- BENEATH ITEMS LAYING ON THE GROUND
- UNDER ROCKS
- IN FIREWOOD AND LUMBER PILES
- UNDER LOOSE TREE BARK
- DEBRIS PILES
- INSIDE OUTBUILDINGS

HOW THEY ENTER HOMES:

- THROUGH CRACKS IN EXTERIOR WALLS
- UNDER DOORS
- THROUGH VENTS
- CARRIED IN ON ITEMS FROM OUTSIDE
- THROUGH WEEP HOLES IN BRICK VENEER