

Sunspiders



Sunspider or windscorpion (E. Nelson/IPM Images)



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Typical Location When Observed: Sunspiders, also known as windscorpions, are occasional invaders of homes, often due to the nighttime lighting that attracts the insects they prey on.

Geographic Location: Sunspiders are found in many parts of Colorado, but are most common the southeastern part of the state.

Importance/Damage: Sunspiders are considered beneficial because they feed on insects. They will bite if handled, but are not poisonous.

Distinguishing Features: Sunspiders appear to have 10 legs, although the first pair of legs actually are actually part of the prominent jaws and used to detect their prey. They generally are reddish brown to tan in color and up to 1 1/4 inches in length.

Look-Alikes: Certain spiders and scorpions.

General Life History and Habits: Most sunspiders are active at night. They are fast runners and are able to climb even smooth, vertical surfaces. They lay eggs under rocks and other protected areas in silk-lined burrows constructed by the mother. She guards the eggs and may help capture prey to feed her young. Sunspiders usually live one or two years.

Resources: For more information, see Extension Fact Sheet 5.589, *Sunspiders (Windscorpions)*.

Scientific Name: Eleven species in Colorado

Class: Arachnida

Order: Solifugae

Family: Eremobatidae

Actual Length

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