

Tityus tenuicauda (Slender-tailed Scorpion)

Order: Scorpiones (Scorpions)

Class: Arachnida (Spiders, Scorpions and Mites)

Phylum: Arthropoda (Arthropods)



Fig. 1. Slender-tailed scorpion, *Tityus tenuicauda*.

[http://www.scielo.org.ve/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1313-01622013000100007
downloaded 20 October 2016]

TRAITS. The slender-tailed scorpion is brownish in colour and is approximately 8cm in length, with the male being slightly bigger than the female (Predini, 2001). The tail of the male has longer segments than that of the female (Fig. 1).

DISTRIBUTION. This species only occurs in Trinidad; they have been found in the areas of Nariva Swamp's Bush-Bush Forest, Cumuto, Maraval, Mayaro, Mt. El Tucuche, Mt. St. Benedict, Port-of-Spain, and Sangre Grande (Predini, 2001).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY. They are nocturnal creatures and are located in the forests. Some may reside under the forest litter and debris while others can be on tree branches as high as 16m from the forest floor (Predini, 2001). Like all scorpions, they are fluorescent when seen in ultraviolet light at night (Fig. 2).

APPLIED BIOLOGY. The slender-tailed scorpion is not on the IUCN Red List. Although there have not been any medical cases involving this species it is still of potential medical interest, because scorpions of the genus venomous (Rein, 2016).

REFERENCES

Predini, L. 2001. Further additions to the scorpion fauna of Trinidad and Tobago. *The Journal of Arachnology* **29**:173–188

Rein J.O. (Ed.) 2016. The Scorpion Files. <http://www.ntnu.no/ub/scorpion-files/buthidae.php>. Accessed 25 October 2016.

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Fig. 2. Slender-tailed scorpions on the bark of a tree, under UV light.

[<http://www.projectnoah.org/spottings/121236036/fullscreen>, downloaded 27 October 2016]

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