

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## Arizona Bark Scorpion (*Centruroides sculpturatus*)

**Distribution:** On the basis of laboratory studies conducted by Valdez-Cruz, et al. (2004), the previous position of *C. sculpturatus* (as a junior synonym of *C. exilicauda*) was revised and the two species were separated. *C. sculpturatus* is found in the U.S. (Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) and Mexico (northern Sonora). *C. exilicauda* is distributed in Baja California.

**Ecology:** Dwells in various arid and semiarid regions, but prefers moist and cool riparian habitats. Generally a nocturnal species, it seeks shelter during the daytime under rocks, logs and bark of trees. In urban areas *C. sculpturatus* frequently inhabits structures or hides under decks, potted plants and outdoor furniture. Feeds primarily on various insects and other invertebrates.

**Medical importance:** The sting of *C. sculpturatus* can be life-threatening and immediate medical attention is advised. The risk level is higher in young children and the elderly. An antivenin has been developed and is commercially available. It is prescribed in severe envenomations.

**Field ID:** Adults reach 65-70 mm and have yellow to yellowish-brown body color. *C. sculpturatus* can be separated in the field from other local scorpions by anteriorly narrowed, subtriangular sternum and relatively thin, elongated fingers of pedipalps. Field identification can be confirmed in the laboratory with the help of additional morphological characters shown on page two.

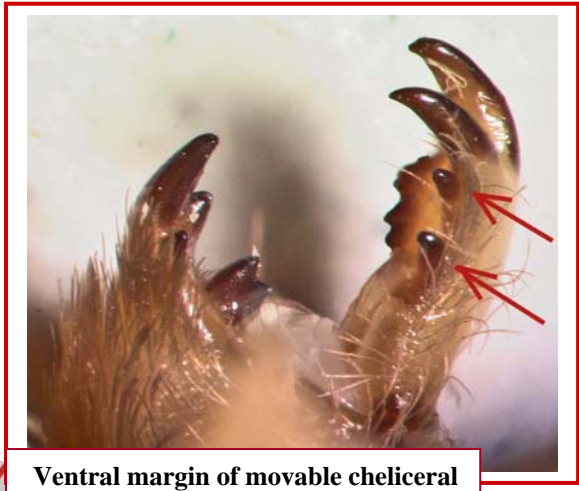


Photo by G. Arakelian

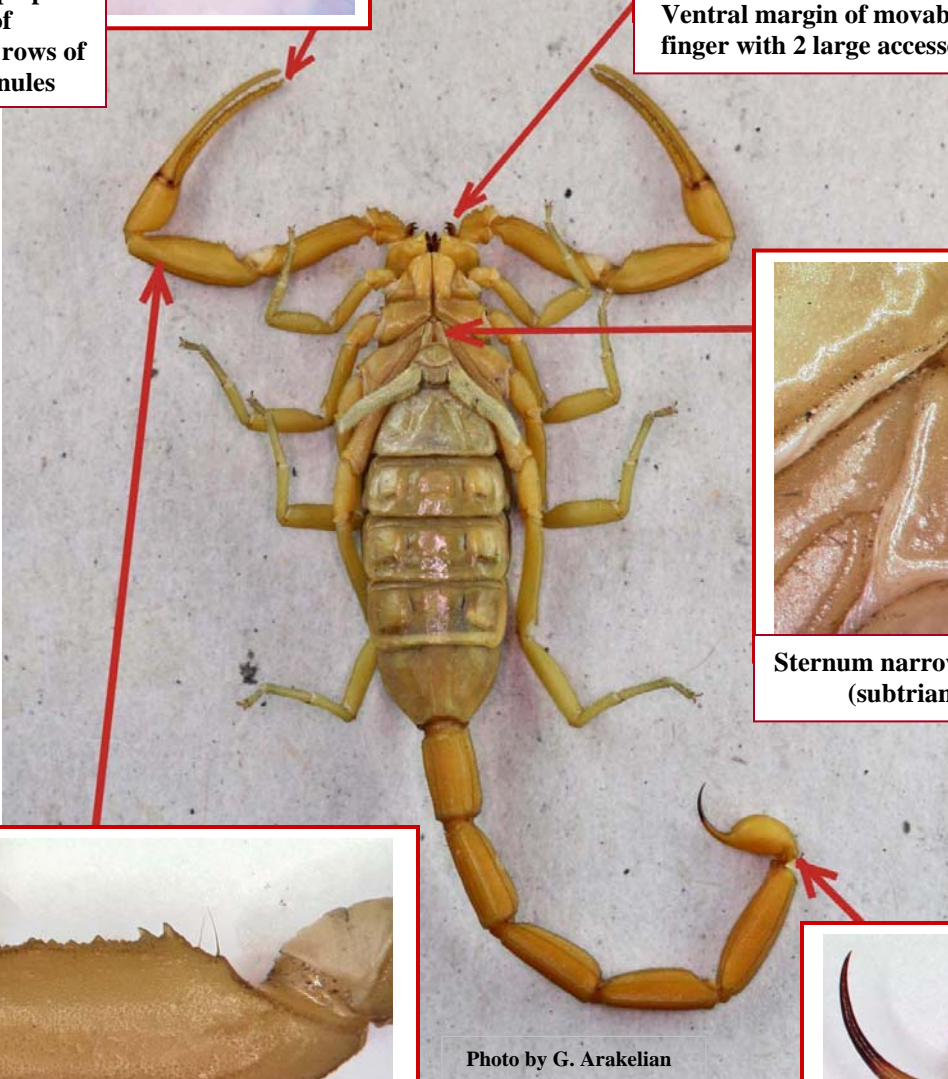
# Morphological characters separating *C. sculpturatus* from other scorpions of California (ventral view of the body)



Fixed finger of pedipalp with median rows of granules fringed by rows of supernumerary granules



Ventral margin of movable cheliceral finger with 2 large accessory teeth



Sternum narrowed anteriorly (subtriangular)



Ventral surface of pedipalp patella without trichobothria



Telson with subaculear tubercle

Photo by G. Arakelian