



### ***Poisonous animals 3. Scorpion :***

**Scientific name** : Scorpiones

**Identification :**

1. The scorpion has a **cephalothorax** (fused head and chest), an abdomen, and **a six segmented tail which terminates in a bulbous enlargement called telson.**
2. The telson contains the stinger and venom apparatus.
3. In addition, the scorpion also has two claws (chela or pedipalps) which help to grasp its prey.
4. Scorpions differ in colour from straw yellow or light brown, to black.
5. Scorpions sting; they do not bite.

**Nature of venom** : The main toxins include **phospholipase, acetylcholinesterase, hyaluronidase, serotonin, and neurotoxins,** which causes gastrointestinal and pulmonary haemorrhages, and disseminated intravascular coagulation.

**Antidote** : ***Scorpion antivenom and Prazosin***