



Poisonous animals 4.4 Scorpion fish

Scientific name : Scorpaenidae

Identification :

1. Scorpion fishes have long bodies that are covered in feather-laden fins. They have skin flaps that also help them easily camouflaging and blend in with their surroundings.
2. Some scorpionfishes are brown or yellow, while others exhibit bright colors like red or orange. They are known to become almost invisible when they are near reefs and rocks.
3. The size of the scorpionfish is about 8 inches to 12 inches, and it weighs around 3.4 pounds.

4. They are usually motionless while near algae or rocks and also have venomous spines that are sharp and are covered in poisonous mucous.
5. They have erectile spines on their dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins.

Nature of venom :

1. The toxins are composed of the following high molecular weight (50 to 800 kDa) proteins: hyaluronidase, pain-producing factor, capillary permeability factor, and species-specific toxic factors.
2. The venom of the fish remains potent for up to 48 hours after the death of the fish.