

False scorpions Order Pseudoscorpionida

ORDER INCLUDES:

7 Native Families

8 Native Genera

15 Native Species

15 Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: False scorpions are small predatory arachnids that prey on other arthropods. Unlike scorpions, false scorpions do not have a stinging tail. Fertilization is either external or internal. Most females construct a brood nest. The order is poorly known in Hawai'i.

DISTRIBUTION: False scorpions are known from Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu, the island of Hawai'i and on Midway Atoll and Laysan Island in the NWHI.

ABUNDANCE: Unknown. A lack of systematic surveys prevents any population estimate. However, the loss of native habitats likely means that species within the order are declining.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: False scorpions prefer habitats that provide cracks, nooks, or crevices in which they can retreat. In Hawai'i, caves are an important habitat; however, the importance of other habitats is unknown.

THREATS:

- Loss or degradation of habitat.
- Insufficient information for species assessments.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations and key breeding habitats, but also to establish additional populations, thereby reducing the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific management directed toward false scorpions should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known false scorpions and to document and identify new species.
- Preserve, maintain, and restore habitats supporting existing populations.

MONITORING:

- Continue monitoring the status of known populations.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Conduct studies to document the biology, habitat requirements, and life history of native species.

References:

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Weygoldt P. 1969. The biology of pseudoscorpions. Cambridge, (MA): Harvard University Press. 145 pp.