



Eumecochernes sp. Photo: Michael Slay.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Pseudoscorpions
Order Pseudoscorpionida

ORDER INCLUDES:
7 Native Families
8 Native Genera
15 Native & Endemic Species

GENERAL INFORMATION: Pseudoscorpions are small predatory arachnids that prey on other arthropods. Unlike true scorpions, Pseudoscorpions 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: Pseudoscorpions 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: Pseudoscorpions 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 pseudoscorpions should include:

- Conduct surveys to determine the distribution and abundance of known pseudoscorpions 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.

- Conduct and support systematic and taxonomic assessments of poorly known and understudied taxa. Work to identify and describe new species to science.

References:

Howarth FG, Mull WP. 1992. Hawaiian insects and their Kin. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Nishida GM editor. 2002. Hawaiian terrestrial arthropod checklist, 4th edition. Bishop Museum Technical Report No. 22: iv + 310 pp.

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