

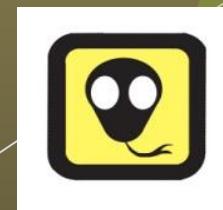
Venomous Arthropods



National Poisons Information Centre

National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Colombo



Wasps, Hornets and Bees Envenomation

- Small children, elderly, patients with cardiac problems, asthma and allergy are affected more by these bites.
- Multiple insect bites may lead to death.



Wasp

Honey bee



Hornet

Clinical Features

- Itching of bitten part
- Red patches
- Swelling
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain



In addition they can get anaphylactic type reaction leading to laryngeal spasm, breathing difficulty, Low blood pressure and death.

Precautions to minimize Wasp /Hornet sting

- In areas where they are abundant, avoid carrying/ eating/ drinking sugary drinks, sugar containing food items.
- Discard remaining fruits and other wastes collected in the area immediately.



Precautions to minimize Wasp /Hornet sting

- Wear clothes to cover whole body, wear shoes, and hats and do not wear bright coloured clothes which attract insects.
- Avoid applying fragrances.
- Avoid disturbing their habitats by throwing stones or causing damage.

First Aid

- Reassure to relieve anxiety
- Remove the stings if present. Can use a forcep or hard cardboard, without squeezing the affected part



First Aid

- Wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Keep ice on the affected area to relieve pain
- Give paracetamol for pain
- If faintishness, breathing difficulties occur take the patient to hospital as soon as possible.



Scorpion venom

- Scorpions hide in holes, ant hills and inside the bark of the trees during day time. They become active at night.
- Black scorpion species are common in Sri Lanka and their bites cause severe pain, swelling, itching of affected area with mild allergic reaction.



Red scorpion

- Red scorpion is not endemic in Sri Lanka, It is found mainly in the Jaffna peninsula, Palali, Achchuweli and Karainagar from where bites are documented.
- The red scorpion bite can be lethal. There are deaths reported due to red scorpion bites.





Red Scorpion

The Red Scorpion has 31 pectinal teeth while those in Sri Lanka have less than 25.



Collection sites of the Red Scorpions within the Jaffna peninsula



Scorpions found earlier in Sri Lanka



- ① *Buthoscorpia sarasinorum*
- ② *Chamus lanus*
- ③ *Chamus minor*
- ④ *Isometrus basilicus*
- ⑤ *Isometrus besucheti*
- ⑥ *Isometrus garyi*
- ⑦ *Isometrus loebli*
- ⑧ *Isometrus thurstoni*
- ⑨ *Isometrus thwaitesi*
- ⑩ *Lychas ceylonensis*
- ⑪ *Lychas srilankensis*
- ⑫ *Chsenilus ceylonensis*
- ⑬ *Heterometrus indus*
- ⑭ *Heterometrus swammerdami* Simon
- ⑮ *Heterometrus gravimanus*

Clinical features

- Rapid heart rate
- Blood Pressure fluctuations
- Excessive sweating
- Excessive salivation
- Shock
- Cardiac arrest
- Death

If above clinical features present seek immediate medical treatment.

To avoid scorpion bites

- Do not keep shoes socks and boots outside the house where scorpions can easily hide.
- Be vigilant before wearing or using towels, cloths, socks and shoes which are kept out side.
- wear gloves while working in the garden
- Wear shoes and carry a torch when going out in the night
- Keep the house and surrounding area clean.

Black widow spider envenomation in Sri Lanka

- Black widow spider is the most venomous spider among other spider species found in Sri Lanka.
- They are found in holes of coconut, Palmira and other trees



Identification of black widow spider

- Dark Black colour
- Fine hairy body
- Red patch found on the abdomen of female spiders.

**Bites due to the Black widow spider found in Sri Lanka
are not deadly venomous.**

Clinical features

- Pain and swelling of bitten part
- Chest, abdominal and muscular pain
- Sweating, salivation and vomiting
- Restlessness and difficulty in breathing

First Aid

- Keep ice on the bitten site
- Paracetamol for pain



Bites of centipedes

- Centipedes live inside caves or among leaves. They are mainly active in the night.
- Bites are extremely painful and cause swelling of bitten part
- Bites are not deadly venomous
- Some may get vomiting, sweating and enlargement of regional lymph nodes.



First Aid in Centipede bites

- Keep ice on the affected part
- Relieve pain with paracetamol
- Seek immediate medical treatment specially for patients with allergic history



Preventive measures

- Keep the home and surrounding environment clean.
- Clean pillows, mattresses, clothes etc.

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