

CENTIPEDE CONTROL

DESCRIPTION

Centipedes are long, flattened, many segmented animals that have one pair of legs per segment. The house centipede is 1 to 1-1/2 inches long with very long, slender antennae and 15 pairs of very long legs. The body is gray-yellow and has three stripes running its length. The legs are banded white.

BIOLOGY

Centipedes, including the house centipede, like to live in moist environments. The house centipede can live outdoors as well as indoors and is often found in damp basements, moist closets, or in bathrooms. Like all centipedes, the first pair of legs has poison glands that are used to kill prey such as insects or spiders.

Centipedes can bite humans, but the bite is seldom worse than a bee sting.

CONTROL

Centipedes causing a nuisance outdoors can most effectively be controlled by removing harborage areas such as piles of trash, stones, boards, leaves, grass, and compost. House centipedes can be controlled indoors by eliminating their harborage areas where possible and by applying pesticide sprays or into wall voids, cracks and crevices along baseboards, and into other potential hiding places.

