



## Vietnam Black Forest Scorpion Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Heterometrus laoticus*

**Adult Size:**

10-12cm

**Lifespan:**

7-8 years

**Breeding Age:**

1-3 years



The Vietnam black forest scorpion (*Heterometrus laoticus*) is a large arachnid species native to Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam and Laos. These impressive scorpions can reach lengths of up to 12 cm (4.7 inches). They are characterised by their dark colouration, typically black or dark brown, with large pincers and a prominent stinger.

In their natural habitat, they reside on forest floors, hiding among leaf litter, moss, and wood debris. They prefer humid environments with temperatures ranging from 24-32°C (75-90°F).

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## **Housing:**

**Enclosure:** As terrestrial creatures your scorpion will enjoy a vivarium which is longer than it is tall, a 60x45x45cm glass terrarium is ideal.

**Substrate:** Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for this scorpion, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss.

## **Temperature:**

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 28-30°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 22-25°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 18-21°C.

## **Lighting:**

Vietnam Black Forest Scorpions do not require any UVB lighting however, they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle. For a cool effect at night, you can shine an LED light on your scorpion and see that it will glow in the dark!

## **Diet:**

**Feeding:** Offer a varied diet of insects (locusts, crickets, and worms) every 2-3 days



### **Humidity and Hydration:**

A humidity of 70-80% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water or a dish with bug gel to allow the scorpion to drink droplets from the surface. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

### **Enrichment and Handling:**

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

### **Health Considerations:**

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Vietnam Black Forest Scorpion may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your animals behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.