

## Insects found in Maricopa County, AZ

Maricopa County is located within the Sonoran Desert, an arid region covering 120,000 square miles in southwestern Arizona, southeastern and most of Baja California, as well as the western half of the state of Sonora, Mexico.

### **Anthropod**

Giant Desert Centipede  
Giant Desert Millipede

### **Arachnida**

Bark Scorpion  
Giant Desert Hairy Scorpion  
Solpugid  
Tarantula

### **Blattaria** (Cockroach)

American  
Desert  
Turkestan

### **Coleoptera** (Beetle)

Arizona Blister  
Darkling  
Ground  
Palo Verde Longhorn  
Pinacate

### **Diptera** (Fly)

Blow  
Flesh  
Flower  
Fungus Gnat  
House  
Mosquito

### **Hemiptera (Heteroptera)**

Leaf-footed Bug  
False Chinch Bug

### **Homoptera (Heteroptera)**

Aphid  
Cicada  
Whitefly

### **Hymenoptera** (Ant, Bee, Wasp)

Big Headed Ant  
Forelius Ant  
Harvester Ant  
Southern Fire Ant  
Carpenter Bee  
Honey Bee  
Paper Wasp  
Tarantula Hawk Wasp  
Umbrella Wasp  
Velvet Ant (Wasp)

### **Isoptera**

Desert Termite

### **Lepidoptera**

Gulf Fritillary  
Hornworm and Hawkmoth  
Swallowtail Butterfly

### **Orthoptera**

Banded-wing Grasshopper  
Indian House Cricket

# Insects



*Swallow-tail Butterfly*

*Photo by Douglas Danforth*

### *Wildlife of Maricopa County Parks*

*Notes:*

**National Poison Control Hotline 800.222.1222**

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department  
602.506.2930 [www.maricopa.gov/parks](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks)

080408



**Maricopa County**  
Parks & Recreation Department

Ant, Harvester *Pogonomyrmex spp*

1/16- 1" mostly black, brown, or reddish. Non-poisonous.



**Warning** These ants are capable of delivering a sting, which does not hurt at first, but can result in intense pain and swollen lymph nodes, particularly if the victim is attacked by numerous workers.

Bee, Carpenter *Xylocopa spp*

3/4". Dark colored bodies resemble bumblebees. Strong mandibles for boring into wood. Live in wood cavities.



Beetle, Arizona Blister *Lytta magister*

This plant-eating beetle variety is 5/8"- 1 1/8" in length, is blue-black with dull orange head and legs that are brownish red. Poisonous.



**Warning:** Insect can squeeze a fluid called cantharidin from their joints. This fluid can raise blisters on humans skin.

Beetle, Palo Verde Longhorn *Derobrachus geminatus* The adult beetle grows to more than 3" long and may be encountered in early evening of summer.



Beetle, Pinacate *Eleodes spp*

1" beetle, raises rear-end to excrete a foul-smelling substance. Non-poisonous.



Butterfly, Swallowtail *Papilio multicaudata* State butterfly; yellow wings, black marks. Spike-like on hind wings. Large.



Centipede, Giant Desert *Scolopendra heros* May be 8" long, has 42 legs and is found under rocks and dead vegetation. Bite is painful with swelling. Poisonous.



Cockroach, American *Periplaneta americana* Dark colored, body oval and flat. Eats decaying vegetation, and bugs. 2-3 1/4". Non-poisonous.



Cicada, Desert *Diceroprocta apache*

Adults emerge in June, feed on plant sap, mate, and insert their eggs just under the surface of plant stems. Non-poisonous.



Fly, Flesh *Sarcophaga spp* 2/5". Dark bodies with grayish hairs on thorax, have sucking and piercing mouthparts.



Grasshopper, Banded-Wing *Trimerotropis pallidipennis* Adults are 3/4"- 1 1/10" long. Grasshoppers usually feed on forbs and grasses, and are a serious pest especially for farmers. Non-poisonous.



Millipede, Giant Desert *Orthoporus ornatus*

Cylindrical form, two pairs of legs per body segment and the habit of coiling when alarmed. If handled, strong odor emitted and a substance secreted which can irritate skin. 5". Non-poisonous.



Mosquito *Culex tarsalis*

Wings long and narrow, fringed with scales. Proboscis in females long and piercing. Males do not bite. 2/5". Non-poisonous.



Scorpion, Bark *Centruroides exilicauda*

Throughout Arizona, parts of New Mexico, and Mexico; almost always associated with trees. Adult 1 3/4 - 2 3/4".



**Warning** The most dangerous scorpion of the Southwest. Its sting may be life-threatening to children/elderly.

Scorpion, Giant Desert Hairy *Hadrurus arizonensis*

5 1/2" thorax black, each leg pale yellow. Nocturnal and preyed upon by owls and bats. Erect hairs on entire body. Poisonous venom in stinger, used to subdue prey and for self-defense.



Solpugid *Eremobates spp*

Yellowish-brown, large jaws and a rapid runner. Can bite if handled, but no venom glands. Also called sun spiders. 3 1/2"- 4". Non-Poisonous.



Tarantula *Aphonopelma* This 3"- 4" large hairy-bodied, burrowing spider. Seen during summer rainy season in southwestern deserts. Non-poisonous.



Termite, Desert *Gnathamitermes perplexus*

Small soft bodies, live in colonies and have chewing mouthparts. Found in the ground or wood. 1/2".



Wasp, Tarantula Hawk *Pepsis spp*

1/2"- 3/4" large wasp; black-blue with reddish-orange wings. Sting and paralyze tarantulas; lay eggs on spider; when eggs hatch, they eat the still-living spider.



Velvet Ant *Dasymutilla spp*

Actually, a wasp, not an ant. Long-haired ground wasps, with yellow, orange, or red patterns, ranging in size from 1/4"- 8/10". Painful sting. Non-poisonous.

