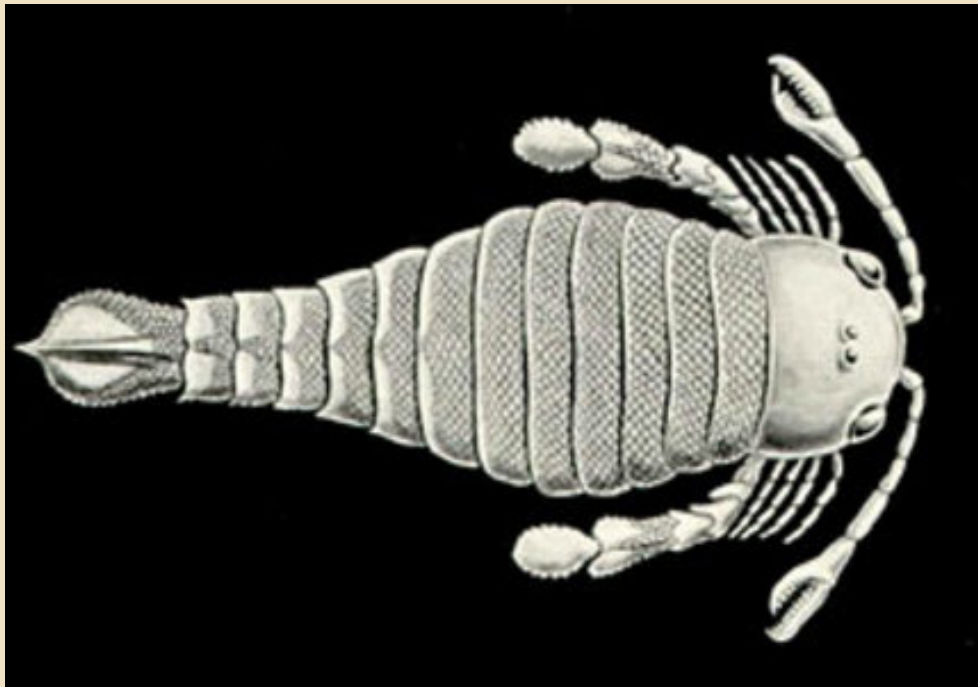


# Scorpions

Scorpions belong to the order Scorpiones. There are approximately 2,000 different species of scorpion living worldwide. They are found widely distributed around the world except for New Zealand and Antarctica and can survive in freezing temperatures, as well as desert heat. Unlike the majority of Arachnid (scorpions, spiders, harvestmen, ticks and mites) species, scorpions are viviparous (have live birth). The young are born one by one and then the brood is carried on the mothers back.

Scorpions are considered a living fossil because they have the oldest fossil record of all the arachnids. *Pterygotus* (Silurian scorpions) was a gigantic form of euryterid (sea scorpions) that lived during the Silurian period, 443.7 million years ago to 416 million years ago. They were the largest arthropod of all time, growing nine feet long. Silurian scorpions had gills and lived in the water. By the Carboniferous period, 354 to 209 million years ago, scorpions no longer had gills and were land dwelling.



Silurian Scorpion



Emperor Scorpion (*Pandinus imperator*)