

Pseudoscorpions

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Pseudoscorpions (Fig. 1) or book scorpions are flattened, oval shaped, and related to spiders. Pseudoscorpions are commonly found in houses but also occur outside under loose bark, dead leaves, etc. Although these tiny creatures (commonly 1/8 inch long) somewhat resemble scorpions, they do not sting and are reported to be harmless. They feed mostly on small insects, and are therefore beneficial. Pseudoscorpions spin small, disk shaped, whitish, cocoon-like structures in which they lay eggs, overwinter, or shed their skins. These structures (Fig. 2) may be found in various locations where pseudoscorpions have been present.

No controls are generally suggested. Avoid stacking firewood indoors. Only bring in the amount of wood you are going to burn at any one time. Such practices will go a long way in reducing the number of pseudoscorpions and other such creatures that enter the home with firewood.



**Fig. 1. Pseudoscorpion. 20X.
By L.J. du Toit.**



**Fig. 2. Hibernation cells of
pseudoscorpions on a floor
joist. By A.L. Antonelli.**