

Centipede

Centipede

Scolopendra morsitans

Description

- A large centipede (body commonly up to 6cm long)
- Has 21 or 23 pairs of legs
- Can bite with their poison fangs and pinch with their last pair of legs

Distribution

- Is quite common in dry parts of the island



Photo: sublunary.sakura.ne.jp

Habitat

- It can often be found hiding under stones during the day

Impacts

- It can inflict a painful bite if disturbed
- It is very aggressive as it eats other invertebrates
- It is of particular concern on Prosperous Bay Plain where it is eating a lot of endemic invertebrates and possibly lots of other species that we might not even be aware of
- It is also possible that it was responsible for the decline of the St Helena giant earwig and also the giant ground beetle



Actions

- Monitoring to determine the level of impact
- Spread awareness of this species

Photo: Philip and Myrtle Ashmole