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SCORPION BATHROOM HYGIENE IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

DENVER—June 2020— With toilet paper shortages in the news, we find out how scorpions deal with bathroom hygiene. In a paper just published in the *Journal of Arachnology*, [Laís M. Pordeus](#) and colleagues report that when a scorpion releases nitrogenous waste, it cleans this waste from the anus by dragging the abdomen along the ground. Like the fastidious beasts they are, the scorpions then use vigorous zig-zag movements against the substrate to ensure that the waste is cleared from the body. This careful bathroom hygiene prevents awkward problems resulting from a blocked body opening and may keep a scorpion in the good graces of whatever other scorpion it may want to attract. Toilet paper shortages are of no concern to these members of the animal kingdom!

About the American Arachnological Society

The American Arachnological Society was founded in 1975 to further the study of arachnids (spiders and their relatives), foster closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional arachnologists, and to publish the *Journal of Arachnology*, one of the premier scientific journals presenting current research about arachnids. Connect with the AAS on its [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

