

CENTIPEDE

The Latin name for the centipede is *Lithobius forficatus*.

The centipede is a common name for the member of a class of the arthropod phylum.

The centipede is a long, segmented animal with jointed appendages and a poisonous *bite* that in some species is dangerous to human beings.

The centipede's body is divided into well-marked segments, the number of which varies from 12 to more than 100. The body is shiny brown in colour. The head, which is covered by a flat shield above, bears a pair of antennae, usually of considerable length of from 12 to more than 100 joints, a pair of small, strong, toothed and bristly mandibles, and a pair of under-jaws, usually with palps.

The next appendages are limb-like, and are followed by a pair of legs with strong joints, terminating in a sharp claw into which a poison gland opens. These appendages are used for seizing and killing prey. The two legs on each of the other segments are usually seven-jointed, sometimes bearing spurs and glands, and are generally clawed.

It is a voracious and active predator, hiding under stones and logs by day, and emerging at night.