



Classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Chilopoda
Order:	Scolopendromorpha
Family:	Scolopendridae
Species:	<i>Ethmostigmus</i> sp.
Common Names:	Giant Centipede

Body

Legs:	Two legs on each body segment. The first pair of legs behind the head modified to be used as venom fangs.
Eyes:	Centipedes have simple eyes and poor sight and see only light or dark rather than detailed images. Many are blind.
Mouthparts:	3 pairs, chewing & tearing mouthparts, fangs assist in cutting and tearing up food.
Hind Legs:	The longer last pair of legs can grasp prey animals but they also look like antennae. This way, predators may mistake the hind end of the animal for its head. This protects the feelers which are the centipedes' most important sense organs.

Life History

Habitat:	Centipedes live under rocks and fallen tree logs, in leaf litter and soil.
Life Cycle:	After mating, the female digs herself a nest under a fallen log or rock. In the safety of her nest she lays many eggs. She wraps her body around the eggs and holds them tight. She checks and cleans her eggs regularly. After a few weeks of tender care the young centipedes hatch and leave the nest soon after to fend for themselves.
Diet:	Centipedes are predators and will hunt any type of food item that is small enough for them to overpower. This may include frogs, skinks, spiders and insects.

