

First Aid information after getting in touch with one of these Species
Common on our island Curaçao

Spotted Scorpionfish



If you inadvertently step on a stonefish thinking it's a harmless rock, it will pop up its dorsal spines and release venom from two sacs at the base of each spine. Unsurprisingly, the more venom that is injected, the worse it is for you. Stings result in terrible pain, swelling, necrosis (tissue death) and even death.

In severe cases of scorpionfish and stonefish envenomation, equine Fab stonefish antivenom (acquired by contacting CSL Corporate Offices) administered intramuscularly or intravenously is capable of neutralizing Indo-Pacific and Atlantic Scorpaenidae species. The venom of scorpionfish is thermolabile, which means that the effect of the venom disappears at higher temperatures.

Highly venomous (extract referred to as SpV), immediately act this way:

- Remove any foreign material like sand and dirt, soak the wound in the hottest water the person can stand for about 30-90 minutes. The venom will lose its operation which doesn't mean it's all over after this procedure. For next 3 days pain will increase terribly, thereafter it will be approximately take a week till you're recovered. After First Aid immediately get medical help.
- In Curaçao I caught most of them the near the beach in Santa Martha.

Lionfish



Same venom as Scorpionfish, same procedure

Lionfish and scorpionfish belong to the same family and there is no consensus on which species belong to which group. That is why they are discussed together. The fish usually look colorful with long fins and spines. These spines are poisonous, but not fatal to humans. When a lionfish or scorpionfish feels threatened, it faces the attacker, upside down. This ensures that the spines are turned towards the attacker. Stitches can be very painful.

Stonefish



The stonefish falls under the scorpion fish, but is a special case. This is a species with poison that can be fatal to humans. The stonefish is found in large parts of the world and can grow up to half a meter. They hide between the rocks, and look like a stone themselves. The reef stonefish is the most poisonous fish in the world. The spines can penetrate the soles of shoes. Because the animals are virtually invisible between the stones, stonefish are dangerous. Stonefishes are the most venomous fish in the world, it's venom verrucotoxin (VTX) is 1200x more stronger than cyanide potassium. Act same way like Scorpionfish, but Immediately call for medical assistance. In Curaçao, habitats are most of the time in the deep water.

Fireworm



Don't pick up or touch this worm. It's sting looks harmful at the first time, after couple of minutes it will start burning like a hot iron for about 24 hours. The worm is injecting a powerful neurotoxin and producing intense irritation and a painful burning sensation around the area of contact. The sting can also lead to nausea and dizziness. This sensation lasts up to a few hours, but a painful tingling can continue to be felt around the area of contact. In a case of accidental contact, application and removal of adhesive tape will help remove the spines; applying isopropanol to the area may help alleviate the pain.

Portuguese man o' war



The Portuguese man o' war delivers a painful sting powerful enough to kill fish, and has been known to occasionally kill humans. This jellyfish possess significant cardiotoxicity to man. After a sting, the tentacles leave long, stringy red welts on the skin. There is local pain, burning, swelling, and redness. The welts last from minutes to hours. A rash may come and go for up to 6 weeks. The best first aid is to rinse with vinegar to remove any residual stingers or bits of tentacle left on the skin and then immerse in 45°C hot water or apply a hot pack for 45 minutes. Portuguese man o' war I've often sighted at the coastline of Boka San Pedro.

By entering the water, always wear stable footwear and NO flip-flops!

Don't touch anything you don't know about! But ask or call!

Find more information about our fish species in Curaçao by tapping the link below

<https://www.curaçao-fishing-adventures.com>

Curaçao Fishing Adventures

