## Centipede

#### **Classification:**

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda Subphylum: Myriapoda

Class: Chilopoda

Orders: Scolopendromorpha
Family: scolopendridae
Genius: Scolopendra
Species: Gigantaa

For Further details link

### **Habit and Habitat:**

They are found in various habitats, including soil, under rocks and logs, and in leaf litter

### **Terrestrial & Diverse:**

Centipedes are found on all continents in a wide range of terrestrial environments, from the Arctic to tropical rainforests and deserts.

### **Moist Microhabitats:**

They require moist environments because their bodies can't retain water well, leading them to seek shelter under stones, in leaf mulch, logs, and compost piles.

# **Characteristic:**

**Body Structure:** Centipedes have a long, segmented body with a flattened shape. The number of segments varies, but most species have an odd number, with each segment (except the last) bearing a pair of legs.

**Legs:** They have a pair of legs on each body segment, and the first pair of legs behind the head are modified into venomous claws or fangs (forcipules) used to subdue prey. The last pair of legs may point backwards.

**Antennae:** Centipedes have a pair of long, jointed antennae on their head, which they use to sense their environment.

**Mouthparts:** They have mandibles and maxillae (two pairs of jaws) for feeding, with the first pair of maxillae forming a lower lip.

**Eyes:** Some centipedes have simple eyes (ocelli) or compound eyes, while others are eyeless. Even with eyes, their vision is often limited to distinguishing light and dark.

**Venom:** Centipedes possess venom glands in their forcipules, which they use to paralyze or kill their prey.

**Movement:** They are known for their speed and agility, using their numerous legs to move quickly.

**Regeneration:** Centipedes can regenerate lost legs, though the new legs may be shorter or deformed.