

DANGEROUS INSECTS AND REPTILES

Be aware!



Common Lancehead (Equis amazonica / bothrops atrox) - venomous pit viper species



Small-eyed Toadhead (Hoja Podrida / Bothrocophias microphthalmus) - Another poisonous pit viper species



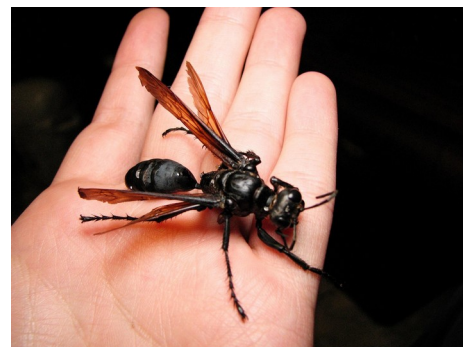
Ecuadorian Coralsnake (Coral ecuatoriana / Micrurus bocourti) - a venomous coral snake, of which several similar species exist here.



Brazilian Wandering Spider (Phoneutria fera) - A large spider with a particularly painful bite. Likes dark, dry areas (like right behind where you put your backpack on the floor.)



Bullet ant / Kong ant (Konga / paraponera clavata) - A large ant. 1-2 inches / 2-4cm long. The sting can cause "waves of burning, throbbing, all-consuming pain that continues unabated for up to 24 hours" Considered the most painful insect sting in the world. If you're lucky, they just nip you with a partial dose of venom.



Tarantula hawk (Pompilidae genus / Spider wasp) - "...immediate, excruciating, unrelenting pain that simply shuts down one's ability to do anything, except scream. " Second most painful insect sting in the world. Fortunately, it only lasts for 5 minutes. Natural predator of the wandering spider.

Stings/bites from the above insects generally do not cause serious problems or require hospitalization. However, bites from the above snakes do require hospitalization and can cause death or permanent organ damage if you do not receive anti-venom within several hours.

Don't touch fuzzy caterpillars. Symptoms can include 1-2 days of minor pain and swelling/stiffness at the spot touched.

Don't touch frogs or any reptiles, their skin can contain poison.