



Monsters that attack in the East Valley

Desert is home to scary creatures looking for cool spaces

COVER STORY

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Remember those perfect East Valley weekend afternoons back in April? T-shirt and sandals weather. Everybody up north was getting pelted by hail and doused by torrential rains. You were giggling on the patio.

This was why you moved here.

Over the eons, this was also why all of our many beautiful palo verde trees,

yuccas and cactuses made their homes here. Alas, our abundant and diverse plant life naturally led to a spectacular universe of creepy-crawly life.

And that's why scorpions, spiders and other venomous monsters of the East Valley are as ornery as you are right now.

They're not fond of 115-degree days, either. They want to cool off. And, unfortunately, they might do that on your patch of lawn in the backyard, in your garage or — God forbid — in the dark corners of your child's bedroom closet.

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Scorpion hunters know that a black light will make the desert dwellers glow in the dark. At night, scorpions leave their shaded daytime hiding places to hunt. (Will Powers/Tribune Staff Photographer)