

## Normal and allergic reactions to insect stings

- I. Normal, non-allergic reactions at the time of the sting  
Pain, sometimes sharp and piercing  
Burning, or itching  
Redness (erythema) around the sting site  
A white area (wheal) immediately surrounding the sting puncture mark  
Swelling (edema)  
Tenderness to touch
- II. Normal, non-allergic reactions hours or days after the sting  
Itching  
Residual redness  
A small brown or red damage spot at the puncture site  
Swelling at the sting site
- III. Large local reactions  
Massive swelling (angioedema) around the sting site extending over an area of 10 cm or more and frequently increasing in size for 24 to 72 hours, some times lasting up to a week in duration.
- IV. Cutaneous allergic reactions  
Urticaria (hives, nettle rash) anywhere on the skin  
Angioedema (massive swelling) remote from the sting site  
Generalized pruritus (itching) of the skin  
Generalized erythema (redness) of the skin remote from the sting site
- V. Non life-threatening systemic allergic reactions  
Allergic rhinitis or conjunctivitis  
Minor respiratory symptoms  
Abdominal cramps  
Severe gastrointestinal upset  
Weakness  
Fear or other subjective feelings
- IV. Life-threatening systemic allergic reactions.  
Shock  
Unconsciousness  
Hypotension or fainting  
Respiratory distress (difficulty in breathing)  
Laryngeal blockage (massive swelling in the throat)