

Australian tarantulas (Theraphosidae spp.) General care guide



Tarantulas in Australia are, in comparison to overseas tarantulas, all very similar, being large, hairy and very drab. All known species are some shade of brown.

Australian tarantulas are slow growing, with the genus *Phlogius* being the fastest growing, taking 2-4 years to mature. *Phlogius* are generally found in semi-arid to rainforest regions while *selenotholus* and *selenocosmia* are generally found from semi-arid to arid regions.

Selenocosmia/*tholus* generally have a simple burrow with limited webbing while *Phlogius* have much more elaborate webbing.

Phlogius are generally 15-22cm in legspan and about 5-7cm in body length. *Selenocosmia*/*tholus* are generally smaller but more robust in body shape.

Enclosure

For slings, a small enclosure minimum 6x6cm with coco peat substrate, something to web on (a small plastic plant for example) and a small starter burrow poked into the substrate will do. For larger juveniles and for adults a small reptile enclosure or plastic tub is ideal, do the same as for the sling enclosure. If using a reptile enclosure, ensure it is one of those 30x30 enclosures with a mesh lid on top, simply cover the mesh with cling wrap to keep humidity in. Alternatively our specially mixed Tarantula mix can be used, it holds moisture just as well as coco peat and has added clay content to help hold burrows.

Food

A cricket about 1/4th to 1/3rd of the size of your spider is ideal, for the adults you can give them 2-3 adult crickets at a time. Feed every 1-2 weeks for adults, slings once or twice a week.

Water:

These spiders will get everything they need from their prey if the enclosure is kept at a suitable moisture level. A water dish **can** be provided but we don't recommend it as it likely won't be used, small spiders and feeders can drown in it and it takes time and effort to constantly refill.

Temperature:

18-27 degrees Celsius is ideal, higher temperatures make tarantulas grow faster.

Humidity:

Tarantulas need fairly high humidity, 60-90% is perfect. For Selenotypus/tholus 40-80% is recommended



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