

Starry Velvet Worm (Euperipatoides sp. 1)



Velvet worms have been around for a very long time, even before dinosaurs existed. They are soft-bodied invertebrates found in rainforests throughout Australia.

They are soft and feel (and look) like velvet and cannot harm you so may be gently handled; they may curl into a ball when frightened. They grow to 30mm in length.

This particular species is from southern NSW and features a dark blue body that gets progressively more purple towards the posterior end. There's a faint, dark median band and numerous small yellow spots.

Velvet worms are predators and capture prey in a remarkable manner. When prey is spotted, they spit venom-glue at a speed that may be the world's fastest animal motion. Once the prey is trapped, they will slowly make their way over and consume them.

Enclosure

For the enclosure you will need to be at least 10x 15cm. For the substrate we suggest cocopeat and lots of moist sphagnum moss. They can be kept communally. A 20x20 enclosure, for example could safely house up to 30 similar-sized individuals.

Food

Velvet worms are predators and capture prey in a remarkable manner. When prey is spotted, they spit venom-glue at a speed that may be the world's fastest animal motion. Once the prey is trapped they will slowly make their way over and consume them.

Appropriately sized small crickets/pinheads should be fed to them at least once a week. Crickets should be about 1/6th of the length of the velvet worm.

Water

They will obtain all the moisture they require from their food and the moist substrate and humidity. Keep the enclosure air tight.

Temperature

These velvet worms must be kept moist and **must** be kept in between 7-15°C. A wine cooler/ bar fridge may be helpful in the warmer months or if you live somewhere tropical. If they are not kept cool, they will die.

Humidity

70-95%

Lifespan

Up to 6 years.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via Facebook Messenger, or send us an email at info@bugfrenzy.com.au



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