

Trapdoor Spider

The trapdoor spider is a common name for several different tropical spiders that nest underground. They make up the family Ctenizidae and they can be found in Japan, Africa, South America, North America and other warm places. They are aggressive spiders and should only be kept by experienced keepers. This species will live inside a small nest and is rarely seen. Trapdoors have a lifespan roughly between 10 to 15 years and lack the hairy appearance of tarantulas. This species should be housed individually.

When this spider is moulting it may spin a web on the floor, lie on it and be on its back. Do not feed or mist the tarantula during this period as it is very vulnerable and should not be disturbed.

Glossary

- Reptile** – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.
- Amphibian** – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.
- Terrestrial** – A ground dwelling animal.
- Arboreal** – An animal that lives in trees.
- Diurnal** – Awake in the day.
- Nocturnal** – Awake during the night.
- UVB** – Ultraviolet radiation.
- Colubrid** – A family of snakes.
- Hybrid** – Offspring from animals of different species.
- Morph** – Colourations created due to genetics.
- Musk** – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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Trapdoor Spider

Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Size & Housing

This species is small and on average, will grow to 2.5cm but may reach up to 4cm in length. They can be kept in specially designed glass terrariums or plastic tanks. We recommend the Exo Terra or Komodo reptile tanks:

20 x 20 x 30 cm / 8 x 8 x 12" – Minimum for 1 Adult



Lighting & Temperature

Artificial light can be provided but UVB is not essential. The enclosure will need to have a constant temperature between 21–30°C. Achieve this by using a heat mat, heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. The temperature should never go below 17°C.

Substrate & Furnishings

"A happy tarantula is one that you can't see." – A general rule of thumb. Does not apply to all tarantulas.

It is best to use soil based substrates such as humus bricks, spider life, peat moss or eco-earth. Another option is compost or potting soil **without fertilisers**. The substrate should be at least 5–6 inches deep. Use bark and live or artificial plants for decoration.

Spiders produce tiny amounts of small white faeces but will leave a small ball of indigestible leftovers from their meal. Providing these are removed, fully cleaning the enclosure will not need to be a regular thing.

Please Note – Live plants must be free of insecticides.

Food & Water

Spiderlings should be fed daily and adult tarantulas can be fed every 2–3 days. They are carnivores and should eat a variety of insects such as:

- Fruit flies (spiderlings)
- Crickets
- Locust
- Cockroaches
- Mealworms

This species requires a medium humidity. It is best to provide a small shallow dish of water that is changed daily. Use a shallow rock to cover the base of the dish if needed to prevent drowning. Mist near the water bowl to help raise the humidity.

Handling

These spiders are best kept as display animals. This species is aggressive and handling is not recommended. This species will be hidden in its burrow and is unlikely to be seen. Any falls can cause serious injuries to tarantulas and can even be fatal. If they feel threatened, they may flick hairs at you or bite.