

## Metallic Pinktoe Tarantula (*Avicularia metallica*)



**Diet:** Crickets, moths, flies and other large insects.

**Habitat:** Tropical forests of South America, such as Columbia. The species is arboreal where they will weave tube webs in the tree canopy.

**Predators:** Any large insectivores.

**Behavior:** First line of defense is for this species to either jump or run away quickly. They cannot kick off any urticating hairs, so the species must make direct contact with its predators.

**Lifespan:** Females will live to be about 12 years old while males only live to be 3 to 4 years old.

**Growth and Development:** Until the final molt, males and females of this species look identical. After that last molt, males will then gain embolus on their pedipalps and tibial hooks which they will use for mating. The species have a diagonal leg span of 5.1 to 5.9 inches.

**Endangered Status:** The status of this species is undocumented.

**Fun Fact:** Adults can launch a jet of excrement at predators to get away. Their range of launching is anywhere between 2 to 3 feet and they have great accuracy.

Schultz, Stanley A. *The Tarantula Keeper's Guide: Comprehensive Information on Care, Housing, and Feeding*. Barrons, 2009. [ISBN 0-7641-3885-5](#)