



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Chilean Rose Haired Tarantula (*Grammostola rosea*)



Country: Chile

Habitat: Found in the Atacama Desert in Chile; this particular species spends most of their life in burrows, out of the heat.

Diet: Grasshoppers, crickets, moths, beetles, cockroaches, mealworms, small lizards, and mammals.

Predators: Hawks, foxes and snakes.

Behavior: The female will wait in their burrow and wait for their prey to walk by using the hairs on their bodies to sense the vibrations. If the tarantula is interested, it will ambush the food and inject its venom.

Lifespan: Males live around seven to 10 years, while females live anywhere between 25 to 30 years.

Growth and Development: Sexual maturity is around seven to eight years. The males will hold the females up with their pedipalps to give her sperm. If the female does not eat her mate, she will have around 200 to 300 eggs while if she does eat her mate, she can have upwards of 500 eggs in her egg sac.

Endangered Status: The species is undocumented but high popularity for a pet is a concern.

Fun Fact: A protein in the venom of these spiders has been used to help prevent atrial fibrillation (irregular heart rate).