



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Ghost Ornamental Tarantula (*Poecilotheria vittata*)



Countries: South-Eastern Sri Lanka and India.

Habitat: The Ghost Ornamental Tarantula is an arboreal species that inhabits tree hollows, underneath tree barks and rock crevices. Overall, the species are not commonly found within close proximity to humans.

Diet: Ghost Ornaments are carnivores, going after flying insects such as moths and crickets but will also go after small mammals and birds.

Predators: Lizards, snakes, any large carnivores or insectivores.

Behavior: Ghost Ornaments are nocturnal tarantulas and prefer to go out during dawn and dusk to hunt. They are ambush predators, where they sit and wait until the prey comes closer or passes by, then follow the prey with exceptional speed, catch it, and inject venom to immobilize it.

Lifespan: Average lifespan of this species of spider ranges from seven years to over 12 years.

Growth and Development: Species have sexual dimorphism, which makes recognition much easier. Males are smaller than females and have a more slender build. Females have been known to grow larger than seven inches.

Endangered Status: The status of this species is labeled as vulnerable on IUCN.

Fun Fact: Ghost Ornaments do not use their webbing to catch prey; once the prey is secured, they roll the prey in silk and start to feed.



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