



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Greenbottle Blue Tarantula (*Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*)



Country: Venezuela

Habitat: This showy tarantula lives in webbed burrows under bushes and tree roots in the desert and scrubland areas of northern Venezuela.

Diet: Small invertebrates.

Predators: Birds, lizards, weasels, snakes.

Behavior: This is a heavy webbing tarantula that creates a tunnel of webbing to protect the entrance to its burrow from the harsh desert surroundings and to catch prey. These are very active tarantulas that require lots of food. Greenbottle Blue females are some of the more aggressive tarantulas in terms of mating. They will often kill a male after mating, which contributes to the very short lifespan for males of this species.

Lifespan: Males and females have vastly different lifespans with females living up to 12 years and males only two-three years.

Growth and Development: Newborn spiderlings can be as large as 12mm when they hatch, much larger than most species. This is a fast-growing species and matures in 1.5-2.5 years. Females reach a max size of six inches, and males 4.5 inches.

Endangered Status: The status of this species is undocumented.

Fun Fact: New world tarantulas have urticating hairs on their abdomens that they kick off when threatened. These hairs are barbed and cause irritation to anyone who comes into contact with them.

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