



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Indian Ornamental (*Poecilotheria regalis*)



Country: India

Habitat: They originate from India, from Dahane in the north (Western Ghats) and Cochin in the south. They live in holes of tall trees where they make asymmetric funnel webs fit for their elongated bodies.

Diet: Feeds on a variety of arboreal arthropods along with other small tree-dwelling animals such as rodents and lizards.

Predators: Weasels, hawks, owls, and snakes.

Behavior: Indian Ornaments lack the urticating hairs that new world tarantulas possess, so their main form of defense is to flee or to bite. The Indian Ornamental is extremely fast, but if it cannot escape a perceived threat it will bite with venom potent enough that it could warrant a trip to the emergency room. Bite symptoms can range from localized pain and joint stiffness accompanied by nausea to excruciating pain.

Lifespan: Indian ornaments are very fast-growing spiders. Males will reach maturity in around a year, while females take two or three years. Males pay for this rapid maturation with a shorter life expectancy, probably only 3-4 years, while some females have been recorded as living for 12 years.

Growth and Development: The egg sacs of Ornamental Tree Spiders tend to harbor a smaller clutch of eggs than most other tarantula, averaging 40-50 eggs. Males attain a leg span of roughly seven inches while females are slightly larger at nine inches.

Endangered Status: The status of this species is of least concern on IUCN but the numbers are decreasing.

Fun Fact: Other tarantulas in the genus display bright blues and yellow accents.



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