



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Socotran Island Baboon Tarantula (*Monocetropus balfouri*)



Countries: Socotra, part of the Republic of Yemen.

Habitat: semi-desert climate with moderate temperatures, lives in burrows underground

Diet: Will sometimes eat scorpions or centipedes

Predators: Unknown

Behavior: A unique behavior of this tarantula is that it is communal, to the point that mother spiders care for the young, even attacking potential predators if they get too close to her egg sac. When threatened, they will give a characteristic “threat pose,” rearing up on the hind legs and baring the chelicerae. This species is an Old World species with no urdicating hairs.

Lifespan: Females 10-14 years/Males 3-4 years **Under human care

Endangered Status: Not Listed

Fun Fact: The Latin name comes from the collector, Isaac Bayley Balfour.