



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Arizona Blonde Tarantula (*Aphonopelma chalcodes*)



Country: United States and Mexico

Habitat: Found throughout the American Southwest mostly in Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California, and northern regions of Mexico.

Diet: Small insects such as crickets and beetles along with the occasional small lizard.

Predators: Fed on primarily by birds along with the larvae of parasitic flies and wasps such as Tarantula Hawks.

Behavior: They are nocturnal burrowing tarantulas that either excavate their own dwelling or inhabit those discarded by rodents. They are quite docile animals lending to their popularity in the pet trade, but will rear and kick hairs like any New World tarantula when threatened.

Lifespan: Males live about 10 years while females have been documented to live up to 25 years in human care.

Growth and Development: During mating the male presents the female with sperm in the form of sperm sacs which she can store in her abdomen for several months until she is ready to lay her eggs. When laying her eggs, she bathes them with sperm to fertilize them and wraps them in egg sac holding upwards of 1,000 eggs.

IUCN Endangered Status: Some species of *Aphonopelma* are decreasing based on IUCN.

Fun Fact: Their name is derived from the unusual light coloring of their carapace in stark contrast to their dark legs and abdomen.



6252 West 104th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80020 | 303.469.5441 | butterflies.org