



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Texas Brown Tarantula (*Aphonopelma hentzi*)



Country: Southwestern United States, including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and parts of Colorado and Missouri.

Habitat: They are often found in grasslands, scrublands, and desert regions. Their burrows provide them with protection from predators and extreme temperatures.

Diet: Their diet consists mainly of insects and other small invertebrates.

Predators: Birds, mammals, reptiles and other larger animals.

Behavior: The male tarantulas undergo a migration or dispersal phase during their adult life to seek out female mates for reproduction. This migration can be seen throughout late August to early October across the Southwestern United States.

Lifespan: In the wild, males typically have a shorter lifespan, living for only a few years, while females can live significantly longer, often reaching 10 years or more.

Growth and Development: The male migration behavior is an essential aspect of the reproductive strategy of tarantulas. Males must find females to mate with, even if it means embarking on a risky journey. While many male tarantulas do not survive long after mating, their sacrifice contributes to the continuation of the species.

IUCN Endangered Status: The status of this species is undocumented

Fun Fact: Males rely on their sensitive leg hairs to detect female pheromones in the air. Once they pick up the scent trail of a receptive female, they will follow it to find her burrow.



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