



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Togo Starburst (*Heteroscondra maculata*)



Country: Togo, Cameroon, and Ghana

Habitat: In the wild, *Heteroscondra maculata* can be found in the trees and shrubs of the West African rainforests. It constructs silk-lined burrows or retreats to hide and ambush prey.

Diet: An opportunistic feeder, eating mostly insects and other small invertebrates

Predators: Larger vertebrates

Behavior: They are quite fast, defensive and possess potent venom. As these are old-world species, they do not possess urticating hairs, which further encourages them to bite as a primary defense.

Lifespan: Around 6 to 10 years

Growth and Development: Like other Tarantula species, The Togo Starburst goes through varying lifestages, including the egg stage, spiderling stage, juvenile stage, subadult stage and adult stage.

IUCN Endangered Status: The status of this species is unknown.

Fun Fact: It has a black body with bright yellow or orange bands and spots, which give it the "starburst" appearance that is often mentioned in its common name.



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