



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Trinidad Chevron (*Psalmopoeus cambridgei*)



Country: Trinidad

Habitat: Arboreal tarantulas are found in the West Indies.

Diet: Insects, small mammals, and small reptiles.

Predators: Birds, lizards, weasels, and snakes.

Behavior: Trinidad Chevrons are arboreal and will create a webbed hide near the base of trees under loose bark or epiphytes. This is a nocturnal animal and will walk a short distance away from its hide to hunt prey. Unlike most new world tarantulas, Trinidad Chevrons do not have urticating hairs. Instead, they will readily rear and try to intimidate predators when threatened.

Lifespan: The life span of the female averages 12 years, and the male slightly shorter.

Growth and Development: Females will lay two egg sacs, both containing 100-150 eggs, which hatch about six weeks after she lays them. Spiderlings disperse almost immediately after hatching. This is a fast-growing species that reaches a leg span of 6 inches in 18-24 months.

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

Fun Fact: Psalmotoxin and vanillotoxin, components in this tarantula's venom, are classified as inhibitor cysteine knots. They both are used as a therapeutic compound in patients suffering from strokes.



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