



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Antilles Pink-Toed Tarantula (*Caribena versicolor*)



Country: Native to the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the Caribbean

Habitat: They are primarily found in tropical rainforests and are arboreal

Diet: Prefer flying insects including grasshoppers, roaches, adult crickets, wax moths, and some vertebrates like small lizards

Predators: Large reptiles and vertebrates including snakes, large lizards, and some birds of prey

Behavior: These tarantulas are known for creating intricate silk retreats in tree branches or leaves. They use their silk to construct hammock-like structures where they rest during the day and retreat to when they feel threatened. These silk retreats can also serve as a place to lay eggs and raise spiderlings.

Lifespan: Females can live up to 12 years while males have a shorter lifespan of 2 to 3 years.

Growth and Development: When a mature male tarantula is ready to mate, he will produce a sperm web—a small web onto which he deposits his sperm. The male then loads the sperm onto specialized structures on his pedipalps.

IUCN Endangered Status: Not currently listed as threatened or endangered by the IUCN.

Fun Fact: Juveniles typically display a bright blue coloration with pinkish or purplish feet. As they mature, their coloration changes to a blue-green body with pinkish or purplish feet.

