



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Cameroon Red Tarantula (*Hysterocrates gigas*)



Country: Cameroon and Nigeria.

Habitat: Cameroon Reds are burrowing tarantulas that often create elaborate tunnels underground.

Diet: Other invertebrates or occasionally small vertebrates such as mice, lizards, frogs, and even birds and fish.

Predators: Birds, lizards, weasels, wasps, and snakes.

Behavior: They spin very little silk, because rather than waiting for prey to come to them, Cameroon Reds emerge from their burrows at night to actively hunt prey. When threatened, these tarantulas make a Velcro-like sound by rubbing together leg pairs I and II.

Lifespan: The life span of females averages 12 years, and males average 4 years.

Growth and Development: Unlike most spiders, Cameroon Red spiderlings will not eat each other upon hatching, but will actually share food and occasionally co-habituate for up to 6 months after they hatch. Spiderlings molt up to 8 times in the first year, and once a year after that. Adults reach a leg span of 8 inches for females and 5 inches for males.

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

Fun Fact: This is one of the only swimming tarantulas, they will occasionally dive to catch fish.



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