



## BUTTERFLY PAVILION

### Chilean Rose Haired Tarantula (*Grammostola rosea*)



**Country:** Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina

**Habitat:** Found in the Atacama Desert in Chile; this particular species spends most of their life in burrows, out of the heat.

**Diet:** Grasshoppers, crickets, moths, beetles, cockroaches, mealworms, small lizards and mammals.

**Predators:** Hawks, foxes and snakes.

**Behavior:** The female will wait in their burrow and wait for their prey to walk by using the hairs on their bodies to sense the vibrations. If the tarantula is interested, it will ambush the food and inject its venom.

**Growth and Development:** Sexual maturity is around 7 to 8 years. The males will hold the females up with their pedipalps to give her sperm. If the female does not eat her mate, she will have around 200 to 300 eggs while if she does eat her mate, she can have upwards of 500 eggs in her egg sac.

**Lifespan:** Males live around 7 to 10 years, while females live anywhere between 25 to 30 years.

**IUCN Endangered Status:** The status of this species is undocumented but is highly popular in the pet trade, which is a cause for concern.

**Fun Fact:** A protein in the venom of these spiders has been used to help prevent atrial fibrillation (irregular heart rate)