



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Fringed Ornamental Tarantula (*Poecilotheria ornata*)



Country: Sri Lanka

Habitat: These tarantulas are primarily found in the wet and humid forests of Sri Lanka, particularly in tree hollows, under loose bark, and in other crevices. They are arboreal and prefer regions with dense vegetation.

Diet: Feeds on a variety of insects, small mammals, and other small vertebrates

Predators: Birds and large mammals

Behavior: This species is known for its speed and defensive behavior. When threatened, they are quick to flee, but they can also deliver a painful bite if cornered. They are mostly nocturnal and rely on their agility and camouflage for protection.

Growth and Development: Undergoes several molts as they grow from spiderlings to adults. Females generally grow larger and live longer than males. Molting is a critical time when the tarantula is vulnerable to predators and requires a safe environment.

Lifespan: Males generally live 3–4 years, while females can live up to 12 years or more.

IUCN Endangered Status: The status of this species is undocumented on the IUCN Red List, but habitat destruction in Sri Lanka poses a threat to its populations.

Fun Fact: These spiders have a fascinating defense strategy: they can produce a hissing sound by rubbing specialized hairs on their legs, known as stridulation. This "hiss" serves as a warning to potential threats.



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