



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Huntsman Spider (*Sparassidae*)



Country: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean, Florida, and Hawaii

Habitat: Endemic to tropical regions of the world and also lives in subtropical areas as an introduced species. It commonly lives in houses and other structures such as barns and sheds, especially in areas that experience cold temperatures. It is sensitive to cold and can live outdoors only in warmer climates

Diet: Small invertebrates. They do not make a web; rather they hunt for their prey.

Predators: Birds and lizards

Behavior: Huntsman spiders are known as 'Roaming Hunters'. They mostly inhabit loose barks or crevices. They are almost entirely nocturnal. Huntsman spiders come out at night to catch medium-sized prey such as caterpillars, moths, and cockroaches. They hunt on ground as well as on tree trunks.

Growth and Development: The female produces an egg sac up to about 2.5 centimeters wide and carries it with its pedipalps under its body. Egg sacs are variable in size, usually containing over 100 eggs, with larger ones holding over 400. The spiderlings undergo their first molt while still in the sac.

Lifespan: The life span of the male averages 465 days, and the female 580 days.

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

Fun Fact: Besides insects it has been known to prey on scorpions and even bats!