



## BUTTERFLY PAVILION

### Venezuelan Sun Tiger (*Psalmopoeus irminia*)



**Country:** Venezuela

**Habitat:** Densely vegetated, humid regions. They are arboreal, living slightly elevated from ground level in bushes and trees in the rainforest

**Diet:** Crickets, mealworms, super worms, flies, moths, pinky mice or anole lizards

**Predators:** Weasels, hawks, owls, skunks and snakes.

**Behavior:** These are rapid climbers that are sometimes prone to biting. They have no urticating bristles, so they rely on their speed and fangs for defense. Its predilection for quick bursts of running alone means this animal should not be handled. They also jump and glide and can happily walk upside down on wet glass. They almost never fall unless nearing a molt, when their tarsal scapulae are a little worn down and don't work as efficiently.

**Lifespan:** Males live 3-5 years; Females 15-20 years

**Growth and Development:** Breeding is fairly easy if the female is well nourished, established, and the male has spun a sperm web. Under those conditions they can cohabitate for quite some time with little worry. If the conditions aren't met, the female often kills the male.

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

**Fun Fact:** One of the fastest tarantula species.



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