

Costa-Rican Zebra Tarantula

(Aphonopelma seemanni)

This species was first described by Cambridge in 1897 and can be found in most of Costa Rica, in addition to Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Described by Ann Webb, in her book 'Wall to Wall Spiders' as "strikingly gorgeous!" it's not surprising that many in the hobby aim to keep at least one of these spiders.

The spider originates from Costa-Rica where it lives in deep burrows in the tropical rainforest. The abdomen is usually a brown to black colour with russet hairs, orange spinnerets and underbelly complete this arachnid's ensemble. The legs are dark brown/black with distinct longitudinal cream lines down the legs.

This is not normally considered a suitable starter tarantula, due to its generally skittish nature and its liberal dose of Houdini genes (this species tends to be a keen escapologist). Because this is generally a skittish species, handling is not recommended.

Terrestrial:

Rainforest species, deep burrower.

Requirements in captivity

As for keeping them as pets, many people keep these in large 12x12x12 (inches) tanks.

Unlike the other terrestrial (ground living) species this species requires high humidity levels (above 75%).

Substrate:

Peat/vermiculite mix, and should be at least 3 (preferably 4) inches deep. These spiders will dig deep burrows if the substrate is suitable.

An open water dish is a must; humidity must not fall below 75 percent!

Shelter:

Flowerpot or Cork Bark

Food:

All standard invertebrates

Aggressiveness:

Not overly aggressive, can be fast.

Venom Effect:

Not yet known, expected to be low toxicity.

Life Span:

Females (up to 18 years), Males (Mature at between 2 and 3 years old).

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