

Mexican Red-Rump Tarantula

Brachypelma vagans



This spider was first described by Ausserer in 1875 and is a native of Mexico, and is frequently found in Belize, El Salvador and Guatemala, where it can be found in deep burrows. It is a very handsome spider of the New World *Brachypelma* family of tarantulas, with very distinctive jet black legs and abdomen. The abdomen is liberally sprinkled with fine red hairs (leading to one of its common names of Red-Rump). The carapace is edged with cream and has thin radiating lines of cream colouring.

These spiders are obligate burrowers and will dig deep burrows when kept in the right conditions. They should not be handled, as they are considered aggressive or at least very skittish. They can move very, very quickly!

The requirements in captivity are:

- A tank is required, around 12x12x12 (inches).
- This species requires medium/high humidity levels (above 70%).
- Substrate for the cage should be of peat/vermiculite mix, and should be at least 3 (preferably 4 to 6) 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 60 percent!

Type: Terrestrial: Scrubland species

Aggressiveness: Can be aggressive. Can be fast.

Venom Effect: Not yet known, expected to be low toxicity.

Geographic Range: Belize, El Salvador and Guatemala

Requirements: Temperature: 76 Fahrenheit

Humidity: 75%

Substrate: 3 inches deep

Shelter: Flowerpot or Cork Bark

Water: Open water dish

Longevity: Females, up to 15 years, Males maturing between 1 and 2 years of age.