

OVERVIEW						
<p>The Antilles (or Martinique) "pink-toe" or tree tarantula (<i>Avicularia versicolor</i>) is a Technicolor, arboreal species from the tropical islands of the Lesser Antilles (Martinique and Guadeloupe). It makes an excellent display tarantula. Most tend to be fairly docile, albeit very jumpy/flighty and difficult to handle, whereas others are quite defensive.</p>						
ENVIRONMENT						
Conditions »	Day Temp	76-82°F	Night Temp	72-76°F	Humidity	70-80%
Heat Source »	<p>Although many tarantulas can be housed at warm room temperature, "pink-toes" are true tropical tarantulas that thrive best at slightly warmer temperatures. Many keepers have warm and humid rooms for their reptiles and inverts that work quite well, but when housed in cooler areas in most homes supplemental heat in the form of a low-wattage red bulb may be necessary.</p>					
HOUSING		<p>Spiderling Housing: Spiderlings may be housed in a variety of containers (see www.tarantulas.com/spiderlings.html), but we prefer the following set-up: a 16-24 oz. deli cup half filled with slightly damp substrate and covered with a layer of moist sphagnum moss, with a sprig of artificial plant and an insect cup lid. This type of lid and cup provides excellent ventilation, whereas there is a significant risk of having too much moisture/humidity in the standard "spiderling vial". "Versi" spiderlings have an undeserved reputation for being difficult to raise. The primary reason some keepers have had high mortality is that they are keeping them too moist and the spiders are succumbing to stagnant conditions. Yes, this is a tropical rainforest species that requires high humidity, but humidity must never be provided at the cost of good ventilation. A vial or small jar with a few pinholes is just not well-ventilated enough. These containers are great for desert and temperate species and even tropical burrowing tarantulas, but for a tropical arboreal spiderling there is too great a risk of over-dampness. Remember: it's easy to add more humidity/moisture, but very difficult to remove excess humidity/moisture. A well-ventilated container provides the opportunity for drying within 24 hours of misting, and a deep layer of substrate allows for a moisture reserve at the bottom of the strata and drier conditions above in the environment where the spider lives. Frequent feeding of small meals (one body-length cricket every 3-5 days) will keep a spider well-hydrated and minimize the risk of desiccation and allow for less frequent or less heavy misting.</p> <p>Juvenile and Adult Housing: <i>Avicularia versicolor</i> is particularly well-suited to beautiful natural vivaria. After rearing juveniles in half-gallon or gallon jars (or Kritter Keeper™ style cages), a tall well-planted vivarium (terrarium) is an exceptional adult enclosure. See www.tarantulas.com/arboreals.html for description of these enclosures.</p>				
DIET		<p>Crickets, moths, small roaches; anoles, other small lizards and treefrogs are great supplements for adult breeder females</p>				
COMMENTS						
<p>The common "Pink-toe" (<i>Avicularia avicularia</i>) and some other members of the genus <i>Avicularia</i> are known for being rare exceptions to the one spider per cage rule. These Avics can be housed communally with some success. However, <i>Avicularia versicolor</i> cannot! It has the cannibalistic tendencies of the majority of tarantulas and cannot be housed together at any age. Even spiderlings will soon feed on their siblings. See http://www.tarantulas.com/caresheets/A_versicolor.html for an extended version of this care sheet.</p>						