

OVERVIEW						
<p>The Colombian Giant Red-leg Tarantula (<i>Megaphobema robustum</i>) inhabits the rain forests of Colombia. It is oddly named since at about a 7" adult legspan it is certainly large, but is not truly giant compared to the largest tarantulas. Furthermore, its beautiful leg coloration is more of a rust-orange than red and is in striking contrast to the velvety chocolate-colored femurs and mahogany or reddish abdomen hairs. This is a very attractive tarantula species! It is also a skittish species that has a very unique and interesting defensive behavior. When disturbed <i>M. robustum</i> will stretch out its spiky-haired rear legs and raise up and bob its abdomen in a threat posture. If further provoked it will circle and strike at its offender with the spiky legs.</p>						
ENVIRONMENT						
Conditions »	Day Temp	76-82°F	Night Temp	72-75°F	Humidity	60-80%
Heat Source »	<p>Usually unnecessary, but this is a tropical species that will not fare well at cool room temperatures. House enclosure in a very warm area that provides appropriate temperature range and minimal drafts, light and vibration. If necessary, the terrarium may be heated using a mini heat mat mounted beneath or a very low wattage red bulb (nocturnal light) shining from above. Small containers housing "spiderlings" are best heated by keeping inside a larger heated enclosure that acts as an incubator. A heated room, such as used by keepers of reptiles and large arachnid collections, is best.</p>					
HOUSING		<p>A simple terrestrial cage with several inches of slightly damp substrate (coconut coir, 50/50 sphagnum peat moss/vermiculite mix, commercial organic soil), hiding place and shallow water dish is required. Large plastic storage tubs with drilled air hole ventilation are good for adults and deli cups, shoeboxes or plastic critter keepers are great for juveniles. Adult enclosures should have extra substrate depth to allow for burrowing. Extra care should be used when raising spiderlings as small containers typically used, such as vials or small jars with lids with small air holes, are too poorly ventilated (we use 16 oz. deli cups with insect cup style lids to raise young tarantulas). A light misting once a week will remoisten substrate and provide droplets for drinking for young specimens. Subadults and adults should have a water dish that is over-filled weekly to remoisten substrate.</p>				
DIET		<p>crickets, roaches, superworms, grasshoppers, etc.</p>				
KEEPER SAFETY						
<p>Like most New World tarantulas, <i>Megaphobema</i> species do have urticating hairs that they brush from their abdomens when disturbed. These can cause severe irritation in most people. Tarantulas are fragile creatures and we do not advocate handling any species and this large, defensive species is always best left alone and observed.</p>						
COMMENTS						
<p>For more information on general tarantula care see: http://www.tarantulas.com/care_info.html For information on raising spiderlings and juvenile tarantulas see: http://www.tarantulas.com/spiderlings.html</p> <p>Also see Michael Jacobi's <i>Tarantulas</i> (Animal Planet Pet Care Library)</p>						