



BRONTY'S FACT SHEET

Bird Eating Spider (Scientific Name: *Selenocosmia crassipes*)



General: This spider may also be known as the Australian Tarantula, Barking Spider or Whistling Spider. The barking/whistling name is due to the noise they make by rubbing their palps with their fangs, which can be compared to the noise of running your fingernail down a comb. The Bird Eating Spider, the largest Australian spider, is native to Australia & is naturally found in warm climates such as humid rainforests & hot, dry deserts. They can live for up to 15 years, but their average life is 10 years for females and 4 years for males. These spiders are venomous and their bite can make an adult & more so a child very ill. They can actually kill their prey with the force of their fangs before they even inject venom. They are nocturnal so if they are quiet during the day leave them be, but keep a watchful eye at night as they come out to feed.

Appearance: Colour is brown to red with a silver shine. They grow to approximately 6cm in body length, with leg span of 16cm, and 1cm fangs.

Habitat: You will need a glass or hard plastic tank with a firm lid. These spiders can climb glass so I firm lid is extremely important. These spiders like to burrow so at least 3 inches of a fine substrate (red sand) should be used. If you start their burrow on the side of the glass you will be able to see them when they tunnel under the substrate. Do not use potting mix as the fertilizing agents can harm the spider. Include some bark, logs & rocks for your spider. Their habitat should be kept no lower than 22 degrees, so keep in a warm place in your home or use a heating device eg. a heat mat or heat lamp.

Diet: Your spider eats live mealworms & live crickets which are available at Brontosaurus. As it grows, in the years to come, it may like a small fuzzie or pinkie mouse (available frozen at Brontosaurus). Any food put into the tank should be smaller than your spider. Feed your spider every third day. If your spider eats as the food is offered you should slightly increase the amount of food. If the spider does not eat the meal; wait until it has before you offer it any more. Water should always be clean & available for your spider. The dish should be shallow with a small amount of gravel in the bottom. The spiders abdomen is a good indication of how well it is. If full & robust your spider is in good health.



For more information please give us a call on (02) 6652 4308
and we will assist you with any queries.