

Curly Hair Tarantula

Brachypelma

albopilosum OR *Tliltocatl*

albopilosus



Physical Characteristics

- Physical description: Long, curly hairs called setae with barbs all over its body. Hair is densest near their hind legs. Eight segmented legs and eight eyes. Body separated into a cephalothorax and an abdomen. Hair can be 3-4 inches long. Two pedipalps on the front of their cephalothorax.
- Coloration: Bronze body with light brown to black hairs. The hair can also have a grey or pink color. Juveniles are paler than the adults.
- Sexual dimorphism: Males are lighter in color.

Size

- Length: 5-5.5 in (12.7-14 cm)
- Weight: Females can weigh up to 2 ounces.

Lifespan

- Wild: Males 4 years, Females 8-10 years
- Zoos: Males 6 years, Females 30 years

Behaviors

- Activity Cycle: Nocturnal
- Lifestyle: Terrestrial, sleep in burrows during the day. They do not travel far when they come out of their burrows to feed.
- Vocalizations: Hissing to scare predators
- Social Structure: Solitary
- Will form webs that line their burrows to protect their eggs.

Diet

- Wild: Small vertebrates like lizards, frogs, and mice, as well as large insects like crickets, roaches, and grasshoppers.
- Zoo: Crickets

Reproduction

- Incubation Period: 8-12 weeks
- Parenting: Mothers take care of juveniles for a few weeks.
- Clutch Size: 300-500 golf ball-sized eggs.
- Breeding Behaviors: Males will find a female's burrow and tap their leg on the ground. If the female agrees to mate, the male creates a sperm web and gives it to the female. The male may then be allowed to leave or may be eaten by the female.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Found in burrows in deciduous forest, evergreen rainforests, and grasslands
- Range: Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Not Listed on IUCN, but CITES required permits to trade this species.
- Contributing factors: Habitat loss, pet trade, and people killing them out of fear.

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia



- Phylum: Arthropoda
- Class: Euchelicerata
- Order: Araneae
- Family: Theraphosidae
- Genus: *Tliltocatl* or *Brachypelma*
- Species: *T. albopilosus* or *B. albopilosum*

Interesting Facts

- Predators include multiple species of birds, snakes, lizards, wasps, and other spiders.
 - The tarantula hawk wasp is a parasitoid that uses curly haired tarantulas as hosts. A parasitoid is an animal that is a parasite only in their larval stage.
- Another name for this tarantula is the Honduran Curly Hair.
- Recent research has indicated that there are two different species of curly haired tarantulas. *Tliltocatl albopilosus* are from Nicaragua and *Brachypelma albopilosum* come from Honduras.
- Their hair does not just protect them, it also helps them sense movement in their environment.