



Brazilian Salmon Pink Birdeater Tarantula *Lasiodora parahybana*



Shelob

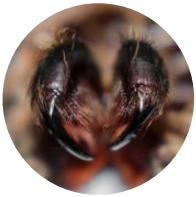
I was born in **January 24th, 2009**. I live in the Discovery Center at the Racine Zoo. I am typically a little shy, and like to keep to myself.

I am named after a character from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

TARANTULA AT A GLANCE



- Their abdomen is covered in **urticating hair** as a defense mechanism.
- When they feel threatened, they will fling their bristles with their back legs at the predator. They feel irritating and itchy.



- Tarantulas have downward fangs compared to "true spiders" with their fangs facing each other.
- They use their fangs to inject venom and digestive enzymes into their prey.
- In the wild, I eat small birds, insects, frogs, snakes, and mice.
- At the zoo, my favorite foods are crickets and mice.



- I am an **arachnid** which means that I have 8 legs.
- I use my legs to move around. I have four pairs of legs that each have a specialized task for locomotion.

Adult size:
9-11 inches long
over **100 grams**

Males have **longer legs** and more **slender bodies**.
Females will be **bulkier and larger**.



Legs can be up to **11 inches**

Avg. Life expectancy: Up to **5 years** for **males**, and **15-25 years** for **females** in both the wild and in human care.

WHERE ARE NATIVE TARANTULA HABITATS LOCATED?

Brazilian salmon pink birdeater tarantulas prefer the forest floor. You will find them in burrows that they dig or underneath leaf litter. Their range is the Atlantic forests of Brazil.



Tarantula Behavior

THREAT POSE

When I feel that I'm threatened, I will stand on my back legs and lift my front four legs to show my fangs.

I don't want to be looked at and want to be alone. I am trying to make myself look bigger.



WEBS

Unlike other spiders, I don't spin my webs around food. I will use my web to cover the entrance to my burrow and line it.

I am making my home cozy to feel comfortable to rest.



MOLTING

Since I have an exoskeleton, I need to shed it to grow. My colors will look dull, and my appetite will decrease before I start molt.

When I molt, I will lay on my back and force myself out of my old exoskeleton.



FLICKING HAIRS

As another defense mechanism, the tarantula will use its back legs to flick irritating hairs towards a potential predator.

At the zoo, I will most likely not do this. This is only used as a last resort.



- We are **ambush predators**. We will wait patiently until food walks past us and then strike.
- When trying to find a mate, **males** give a courtship dance in front of a potential mate's burrow.
- A **male courtship dance** will include **pedipalp dancing, leg drumming, push-ups** and **dancing**.
- After mating, must run away quickly from the female or end up getting eaten by them.

Tarantula Conservation

The Brazilian forests that these tarantulas call home are under severe threat of deforestation due to illegal logging, land conversion into pastures, plantations, and agriculture, and the expansion of urban areas.

They are not listed on the **IUCN Red List** or any corresponding appendixes. However, all animals that live in the forests of South America are experiencing some form of habitat lost due to deforestation and habitat fragmentation .



How can we help?

Buying sustainable products reduces deforestation and habitat loss. We can buy flooring and lumber approved by the **Forest Stewardship Council**, and buying paper household products made out of recycled paper.

Arachnids can make you feel uncomfortable, but they play an important role in the environment. They act as important predators and keep insects levels down. If you see one in your house, please leave or move it safely as they are a great pest control for unwanted insects!