

# Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula

## *(Acanthoscuria geniculata)*

The Brazilian Whiteknee (White Knee) Tarantula is a relatively new and exciting species.

It is large, and unlike many other large terrestrial tarantulas, it is beautiful. The Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula is moderately aggressive. When disturbed, it does not usually bite, but likes to flick the stinging, airborne urticating hairs that New World tarantulas are famous for using as a defence. The hairs are itchy, and most people get a rash from them, so watch out when you open your tank.

This impressive tarantula can be expensive, but it is definitely worth it! Throughout 1998, the Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula was the most desired tarantula species available and was in high demand. This tarantula is still a desired species due to its combination of size, and beauty.

The Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula goes by many different common names, which can be confusing, although they are all similar. Some of the names are listed below. The Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula makes an unbelievable display tarantula, and is sure to grab the attention of anybody who sees it!

<b>Range</b>	Forests of northern Brazil.
<b>Type</b>	Terrestrial.
<b>Diet</b>	Spiderlings eat pinhead crickets and other small insects. Adults eat crickets, other large insects, small lizards, pinkie mice, and an occasional fuzzy mouse.
<b>Full Grown Size</b>	7 to 8 inches.
<b>Growth</b>	Fast speed.
<b>Temperature</b>	80 to 85° F.
<b>Humidity</b>	75 to 80%. All tarantulas that have at least a 3" legspan may drink from a shallow, wide water dish.
<b>Temperament</b>	Semi-aggressive and nervous.
<b>Housing</b>	Spiderlings can live in a clear plastic deli-container with air holes. Adults can live in a 10 to 15-gallon tank. Floor space is more important than height.
<b>Substrate</b>	3 to 4 inches of peat moss, or potting soil.
<b>Decor</b>	Logs, driftwood, cork bark, etc. make good hiding places. Moss can be added for floor cover.
<b>Other Names</b>	Brazilian Whiteknee Birdeater, Brazilian Whitekneed Tarantula, Brazilian White Banded Bird Eating Tarantula, Brazilian Black and White Stripe Birdeater, Whiteknee Tarantula, Whitekneed Bird Eating Tarantula, Giant Whiteknee Birdeater, Giant Whitekneed Tarantula, and Santarem Pink Haired Bird Eating Tarantula.

*\*Please note that ALL tarantulas have a certain amount of venom. Although most people are not affected by this species, some people may be allergic to the venom, or just more sensitive, making it a dangerous situation. This is one of the reasons that people should not handle this tarantula. Also, New World species of tarantulas like this one can flick urticating hairs off of their abdomens, which can also cause a reaction, depending on the person. Effects of this tarantula's natural defences may vary between people. All tarantulas should be considered dangerous, so be careful, because you don't want to find out if you are allergic or more sensitive the HARD WAY!*

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