

# Curly Hair (Curlyhair) Tarantula

*(Brachypelma albopilosum)*

The Curlyhair Tarantula is an ideal tarantula species for a beginner because of its docile temperament and relatively large size. Although fairly common and easy on the pocket, this species is more than just a brown tarantula. Up close, Curlyhair Tarantulas have gold and tan hairs covering their bodies. The legs are a darker brown, in contrast to the practically bronze carapace. This comes out to be one fine-looking spider without being exceedingly colourful. Also, true to their common name, most Curlyhair Tarantulas have hair that looks curly (actually more wavy than curvy, but we'll let that slide). They are very hardy tarantulas that make lasting pets. They also make great "show" spiders since they can be taken out and handled, although handling should not take place frequently because there's always the possibility of the tarantula falling off your hand and splitting its abdomen open (likely fatal). Curlyhair Tarantulas seem to have more personality (tarantulality) than the conventional starter species, the Chilean Rose Tarantula. Overall, Curlyhair Tarantulas are great for anybody, and yours may easily become a favourite in your collection!

## **Range:**

Montane and cloud forests of Central America.

## **Type:**

Terrestrial.

## **Diet:**

Spiderlings eat pinhead crickets, and other small insects. Adults eat crickets, other large insects, small lizards, pinkie mice, and an occasional fuzzy mouse.

## **Full Grown Size:**

5 to 5.5 inches.

## **Growth:**

Slow speed.

## **Temperature:**

70 to 85° F.

## **Humidity:**

75 to 80%. All tarantulas that have at least a 3" leg span may drink from a shallow, wide water dish.

## **Temperament:**

Docile and calm.

**Housing:**

Spiderlings can live in a clear plastic deli-container with air holes. Adults can live in a 5 to 10-gallon tank. Floor space is more important than height.

**Substrate:**

2 to 3 inches of peat moss, or potting soil.

**Decor:**

Logs, driftwood, cork bark, etc. make good hiding places.

**Other Names:**

Honduran Curlyhair Tarantula and Woolly 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!*