

Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens - Green Bottle Blue Tarantula care sheet

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Photo: Chadwick Family Inverts on Instagram

Species Overview

Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens is a striking terrestrial tarantula native to regions in Central and South America. Renowned for its vibrant colouration and active behaviour, this species is a popular choice among experienced keepers. Understanding its natural history and specialized care requirements is fundamental in creating an environment where it can thrive. This care sheet outlines recommendations for housing, temperature, humidity, diet, hydration, and general maintenance to meet the needs of this terrestrial tarantula.

Enclosure Setup

For a terrestrial species like *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*, an enclosure that emphasizes ample ground space is essential. A secure enclosure with dimensions around 30 cm (width) x 30 cm (depth) x 30 cm (height) is recommended for an adult specimen. This size provides sufficient space for the tarantula to freely roam, burrow, and explore its environment.

- Substrate:

Use a well-draining substrate composed of a mix of coconut fibre or peat moss blended with sand. Provide a substrate layer approximately 10–15 cm deep to encourage natural burrowing and exploration. This deeper substrate layer allows the tarantula to dig and create secure retreats while supporting its terrestrial lifestyle. Avoid using heavy décor items such as rock formations, as these can restrict movement and pose injury risks.

- Hiding Places and Retreats:

Incorporate safe retreats to mimic a natural environment. Cork bark tubes are highly recommended as they offer ideal hiding spots where the tarantula can shelter, rest, and decorate with its silk. In addition to cork bark tubes, consider using flat pieces of unpolished wood or simple bark sections placed on the substrate as additional retreats. These elements provide secure cover

without obstructing the tarantula's movement.

Temperature and Humidity

Maintaining a stable microclimate is critical for *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*.

- Temperature:

This terrestrial species thrives in ambient temperatures ranging from 22°C to 26°C. To achieve a stable temperature, if supplemental heat is required, use a regulated heating pad positioned on the side of the enclosure rather than underneath. This arrangement allows heat to diffuse gradually throughout the habitat, providing a temperature gradient where the tarantula can move to cooler areas as needed for proper thermoregulation.

- Humidity:

Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens benefits from relatively high humidity levels—in the range of 70% to 80%. To maintain these levels, provide a water dish that is available at all times. Change the water daily to ensure freshness and prevent bacterial growth. Additionally, once a month, allow the water dish to overflow slightly during the cleaning process; this intentional overflow releases extra moisture into the enclosure, helping to retain an ideal humidity level without the need for frequent spraying. A hygrometer should be used regularly to monitor conditions and ensure that humidity remains within the recommended parameters.

Diet and Feeding

A balanced diet consisting of live prey is essential for the health of *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*.

- Prey:

Offer a variety of appropriately sized live insects. Common prey items include crickets and roaches, and for larger individuals, a locust can be offered as part of their feeding regimen. Ensure that the prey size is suitable relative to the tarantula's body to avoid feeding complications.

- Feeding Frequency and Body Condition:

Juvenile tarantulas may be fed once or twice a week, while adults can be offered food on a weekly basis. It is important to remove any uneaten prey after a few hours to prevent substrate contamination and undue stress on the tarantula. Additionally, when feeding, observe the tarantula's abdomen size relative to its carapace. Ideally, the abdomen should measure between 1 and 1.5 times the size of the carapace. If the abdomen consistently exceeds this range, consider skipping a feeding session to avoid overfeeding and obesity. Proper weight management is essential to ensure the long-term health and vitality of your tarantula.

Hydration

Maintain a constant supply of dechlorinated water with a water dish available at all times. Aside from serving as a hydration source, the water dish plays a role in humidity control. Clean and change the water daily, with an intentional overflow once a month to help boost ambient moisture levels.

Handling and Safety

While *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens* is fascinating to observe, handling is strongly

discouraged. This species can be defensive and may deliver a painful bite if it feels threatened. Minimal handling helps reduce stress and minimizes the risk of injury to both the tarantula and its caretaker. Observing your tarantula from a safe distance is the preferred method of appreciating its behavior and vibrant appearance.

Maintenance and Monitoring

Regular inspection of the enclosure is essential to ensure that temperature and humidity remain within the recommended ranges. Use a reliable thermometer and hygrometer for accurate readings.

- **Moulting:**

Moulting is a critical phase during which the tarantula sheds its exoskeleton. During this vulnerable period, the tarantula might retreat to a secluded area within its enclosure where it feels secure. Minimal disturbance is crucial during moulting to avoid stress or accidental harm.

- **General Cleanliness:**

Focus on routine maintenance by removing any visible debris or uneaten prey. This helps preserve the established environment and ensures that the substrate remains conducive to the tarantula's natural behaviour.

Final Considerations

Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens thrives when provided with a thoughtfully designed terrestrial setup that mirrors aspects of its natural habitat. By offering an enclosure sized at 30 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm with a substrate depth of 10-15 cm, maintaining ambient temperatures between 22°C and 26°C (with supplemental heat via a side-placed heating pad if required), and sustaining humidity with a water dish that is changed daily and overflowed monthly, you create optimal conditions for your tarantula. A balanced diet of live prey such as crickets, roaches, and locusts, along with the inclusion of cork bark tubes as retreats, further enhances its well-being.

Consistent monitoring, minimal handling, and careful observation during moulting are the cornerstones of successful tarantula husbandry. By adhering to these guidelines, you can ensure a safe, vibrant, and healthy home for *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*, allowing you to enjoy its natural behaviours and stunning appearance for many years to come.

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