

# Hystereocrates gigas - Cameroon rusty red baboon tarantula

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Photo provided by Chadwick family inverts on Instagram

## 1. About the Species in the Wild

- Hystereocrates gigas is native to parts of Africa, where it is found in environments that encourage the construction of deep burrows.
- In the wild, it digs deep burrows for shelter, which provide excellent protection and stable conditions.
- This species is very defensive and will resort to biting when threatened. Its venom is medically significant, so careful observation from a safe distance is essential.
- It relies on camouflage and its ability to create deep retreats rather than relying on open, exposed areas.

## 2. Enclosure Setup

- Enclosure Size: A secure enclosure measuring 30 cm wide x 30 cm long x 20 cm high is recommended. This space provides enough room for movement and for the tarantula to dig a deep burrow.
- Substrate: Use a loose material such as coconut fibre or peat moss, with a depth of 10 to 15 cm. The substrate should allow the tarantula to excavate a deep burrow, mimicking its natural habitat.
- Decorations: Include hiding spots using cork bark pieces or flat pieces of wood. Avoid using rocks as decoration because they may cause injury.
- Ventilation: Ensure proper airflow to maintain stable temperature and humidity within the enclosure.

## 3. Temperature and Humidity

- Temperature: Maintain a consistent temperature between 21°C and 27°C.
- Humidity: Keep the humidity level between 70% and 80%.
- Water Setup: Provide a shallow water bowl with fresh water available at all times. To help maintain the desired humidity, overflow the water bowl once a fortnight.

## 4. Feeding and Watering

- Diet: Offer a variety of small insects such as crickets, roaches, or other suitable prey.

- Feeding Frequency: Feed approximately once a week or every 7–10 days. Remove any uneaten prey after one day to prevent contamination or attracting pests.
- Water: Always ensure the water bowl is filled with fresh water, and follow the routine of overflowing it every two weeks to sustain humidity levels.

#### 5. Handling and Safety Considerations

- DO NOT HANDLE: Due to its very defensive nature and medically significant venom, handling *Hysteroecrates gigas* is not recommended.
- If enclosure maintenance is necessary, use proper tools (such as long forceps) and wear protective gear.
- Place the enclosure in an area where accidental disturbances by people or pets are unlikely.

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By following these guidelines, you can provide a secure and comfortable environment that closely mimics the natural habitat of *Hysteroecrates gigas*—with deep burrow opportunities and steady environmental conditions. Always consult experienced keepers or reliable care sources if you have any questions or concerns regarding the care of this species.

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