

OVERVIEW						
<p>The King Baboon Tarantula is now correctly known as <i>Pelinobius muticus</i>, but its scientific name was <i>Citharischius crawshayi</i> for a long time and may be more familiar. The term "baboon spider" is used to refer to all African tarantulas collectively, and is due to the resemblance of their legs seen protruding at the mouth of their burrows have to the fingers of baboons. The King Baboon is native to East Africa and is one of the largest of the African tarantulas. It reaches a leg span approaching eight inches. Even more impressive than its size is the rasping threat sound it makes by stridulation; it rubs a rough surface on its chelicera against a similar opposing surface on its pedipalp to produce this fairly loud "hiss" to deter aggressors. It is an irritable species that can deliver a painful bite.</p>						
ENVIRONMENT						
Conditions »	Day Temp	72-78°F	Night Temp	70-75°F	Humidity	50-65%
Heat Source »	<p>Usually unnecessary. House enclosure in a warm area that provides appropriate temperature range and minimal drafts, light and vibration. If necessary, terrariums may be heated using a mini heat mat mounted beneath or a very low wattage red (or "nocturnal") bulb safely suspended above. Small containers housing "spiderlings" are best heated by keeping inside a larger heated enclosure that acts as an incubator.</p>					
HOUSING		<p>A terrestrial cage with plenty of ventilation (a plastic critter keeper style terrarium is excellent), slightly moist and very deep substrate (commercial organic soil mixes are excellent, but coconut coir or 50/50 sphagnum peat moss/vermiculite mix are just as good), hiding place and small water dish — extra care should be used when raising spiderlings as small containers typically used, such as vials or small jars with lids with small air holes, are too poorly ventilated (we use 16 oz. deli cups with insect cup style lids to raise most young tarantulas). However, young tarantulas do require higher humidity than adults.</p> <p>King Baboons are best housed in a great depth of firmly packed substrate so that they can burrow. The use of a fairly narrow and tall container is popular as it often allow the spider to be observed even when it is deep in its retreat.</p>				
DIET		<p>crickets, grasshoppers, roaches, superworms; large specimens will eat adult roaches and young rodents, etc.</p>				
KEEPER SAFETY						
<p>Old World tarantulas do not have the urticating hairs most New World species brush from their abdomens in defense when disturbed. Instead, most species are quick to defend themselves by rearing up on their hind legs in readiness to deliver a very painful bite. Tarantulas are fragile creatures and we do not advocate handling.</p>						
COMMENTS						
<p>For more information on general tarantula care see: http://www.tarantulas.com/care_info.html For information on raising spiderlings and juvenile tarantulas see: http://www.tarantulas.com/spiderlings.html</p> <p>Also see Michael Jacobi's <i>Tarantulas</i> (Animal Planet Pet Care Library)</p>						

