

OVERVIEW						
<p>The Mexican Red-Rump (<i>Brachypelma vagans</i>) is a beautiful velvety black spider (hence the other popular name, Mexican Black Velvet) with striking reddish abdomen hairs. It inhabits the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico and ranges south to Guatemala and Belize. It also has been introduced to an area of Florida. The Red-Rump is an opportunistic tarantula that will both take refuge under stones and tunnel its own burrow retreat into the earth. The Red-Rump and its cousins like the Mexican Fire-Leg (<i>B. boehmei</i>) and Mexican Red-Knee (<i>B. smithi</i>) are among the most popular pet tarantulas. They are beautiful, hardy, long-lived and often docile.</p>						
ENVIRONMENT						
Conditions »	Day Temp	70-78°F	Night Temp	68-75°F	Humidity	50-60%
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 bulb. Small containers housing "spiderlings" are best heated by keeping inside a larger heated enclosure that acts as an incubator.</p>					
HOUSING		<p>A simple terrestrial cage with plenty of ventilation (a plastic critter keeper style terrarium is excellent), mostly dry substrate (commercial organic cactus soil mixes are excellent but dry 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 young <i>Brachypelma</i>). However, young tarantulas do require higher humidity than adults. A light misting once a week will remoisten substrate and provide droplets for drinking.</p>				
DIET		<p>crickets, superworms, grasshoppers, small roaches</p>				
KEEPER SAFETY						
<p>Like most New World tarantulas, Red-Rumps do have urticating hairs that they brush from their abdomens when disturbed. Although many Red-Rumps are docile spiders, some specimens are nervous and defensive and all <i>Brachypelma</i> are notorious for their "hair-flicking". These hairs can cause moderate to severe irritation in many people. Tarantulas are fragile creatures and we do not advocate handling.</p>						
COMMENTS						
<p>All of the tarantulas of the genus <i>Brachypelma</i> are popular pet tarantulas. Their tendency to "hair-flick" is far outweighed by their beauty, docile nature, hardiness and longevity. Females may live more than 20 years and become treasured terrarium pets.</p> <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>						