



## Texas Brown Tarantula *Aphonopelma hentzi*

**Description:** Texas Brown Tarantulas only stand to be 2-3 inches high and 3-4 inches long. Their abdomen is about the size of a quarter and are light to dark brown in color. Their eight legs are usually darker than their body. The males of the species are smaller than the females and have a significantly shorter lifespan.

**Range:** Texas Browns live in the southern Midwest of the United States, mainly in Texas and Oklahoma.

**Habitat:** They are found in grassy plains and live in holes and tunnels underground, such as abandoned mouse burrows.

**Life Span:** Females can live up to 30 years. Males live 2-3 years.

**Natural Diet:** In the wild they are carnivorous and feed off insects, other spiders, and even small mammals.



**Zoo Diet:** At the zoo, they receive a diet of crickets and small mice.

**Behavior:** Tarantulas are a secretive animal that spends most of its life hidden away under a rock or in a hole. They are nocturnal and come out at night to feed and to find a mate, other than that they are very shy and nonaggressive. They do not weave webs like other spiders do but use their silk to form a sort of door over their burrows and to protect their eggs.

**Reproduction:** A male tarantula lives only to find a mate and reproduce. Females live almost 10 times longer than the males and can reproduce many times. They will lay eggs and protect them with their silk. When they hatch they rarely stay with the mother.

**Conservation status:** Not listed, common.