



CARE SHEET © Pails for Scales

Bird Eating Spider *Selenocosmia Crassiceps*

WARNING:

These spiders can and will bite, they have fangs that are as large as Red Bellied Black Snakes (8mm). If bitten you should seek medical treatment ASAP, symptoms include vomiting and pain in your joints. It is advisable not to handle these animals as barbs in their body hair can cause a reaction to some people.

DIET:

The preferred food for these spiders is live insects such as crickets, mealworms or roaches which can be purchased at Pails for Scales. You can also try to feed your spider small animals such as baby mice or raw meat. You should always supplement the diet of your spider with calcium and vitamin powders. Ask us for details.

HOUSING:

Generally aquariums or small plastic tanks make great homes for your spiders. Use peat moss or garden mulch as a substrate with a hiding spot for the spider. Bark or cardboard toilet roll holders are great. The humidity needs to be kept at a reasonable level, so spray the substrate once a week or so. They also absorb moisture from soaked cotton wool, this is how they drink.

CARE:

Spiders need very little maintenance, it is necessary to remove old food bits on a regular basis. As with most animals, spiders need UV light to grow properly. Placing your enclosure in natural sunlight about 3 times a week is ideal, remember of course, that on hot days your spider will die if left for too long a period. 5-10 minutes is generally enough.

MOULTING:

Adults molt between December and February. It is important to keep the enclosure humid during this time. All live food should be removed and make sure there is sufficient water once it's finished, the spider will be dehydrated after molting. Signs the spider is ready for a shed are a darkening in colour, not eating and lethargic behavior. Remove the skin once the process has been completed.

www.pailsforscales.com Ballarat's Pet Mega Store.