

# Psalmopoeus irminia - Venezuelan sun tiger



Photo provided by Chadwick family inverts on Instagram

## 1. Species Overview

- **Native Habitat:** *Psalmopoeus irminia* is an arboreal tarantula native to Venezuela. In its natural environment, it is typically found on the lower sections of trees in tropical rainforests, where high humidity and warm temperatures prevail.
- **Temperament:** This tarantula is exceptionally fast and highly defensive. Handling should never be attempted.

## 2. Enclosure Recommendations

- **Cage Size:** An adult should be housed in an enclosure measuring approximately 20 cm in diameter, 20 cm in width, and 30 cm in height. Given its arboreal habits, it is vital to provide vertical space and climbing structures.
- **Decor & Climbing Structures:**

- Recommended: Cork bark tubes are ideal as decor; they offer natural hiding spots similar to tree crevices. In addition, including vertical elements such as branches will encourage climbing and help replicate its natural environment.

- Not Recommended: Rock decor should be avoided. Not only do rocks fail to support the tarantula's climbing habits, but their weight and sharp edges also pose a risk—they can cause injury or even death if they fall or interfere with the tarantula's movements.

### 3. Environmental Conditions

- Humidity: Maintain the enclosure humidity steadily between 70% and 80% to mirror its natural habitat.

- Monthly Maintenance: Overflow the water bowl once a month to help stabilize the humidity within the enclosure.

- Temperature: Keep the ambient temperature between 24°C and 28°C.

- Heating: Use a thermostatically controlled heat mat mounted on the exterior side of the enclosure to provide a stable temperature without creating hot spots.

### 4. Hydration

- Fresh Water: Always provide a shallow water dish filled with fresh water. Regular cleaning and refilling will keep the water source contaminant-free.

### 5. Handling & Safety

- Handling: Under no circumstances should handling be attempted due to the tarantula's speed and highly defensive nature.

### 6. General Husbandry & Maintenance Tips

- Substrate: Choose a substrate that retains humidity effectively and is deep enough to allow natural behaviours such as burrowing. A mix of peat and coconut fibre works well to replicate tropical conditions.

- Cleaning: Regularly spot clean the enclosure and perform full cleanings as needed, minimizing stress to the tarantula.

- Observation: Monitor your tarantula consistently for any signs of stress, illness, or unusual behaviour, and adjust environmental conditions appropriately.

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By following these guidelines—especially noting the risks associated with rock decor, exclusively using a thermostatically controlled heat mat, and providing an environment rich in vertical climbing opportunities—you can create a secure, natural habitat for *Psalmopoeus irminia*. Enjoy observing this fascinating species from a safe distance while always prioritizing its health and well-being.

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