



red-knee tarantula

NAME: *Brachypelma smithi*

FROM: Mexico

EATS: Insects and small vertebrates

SIZE: Up to 15cm legspan

AGE: Up to 40 years

SEXING: Mature males have thinner bodies and enlarged palps

HOUSING: Best kept alone

One of the most docile species of tarantula, they are a good choice for a first pet spider but as they can live for over 25 years, they're a life-long commitment.

They have a patch of urticating hair on their abdomen which they can kick off if they feel threatened. These hairs cause irritation to the eyes, nose and skin of any predators.

Some tarantula spider can reach 30cm in legspan - that's the size of a dinner plate!

The name 'bird-eating spider' comes from when the first explorers saw large spiders feeding on humming bird chicks.

