

THE TARANTULA KEEPERS' GUIDE, THIRD EDITION

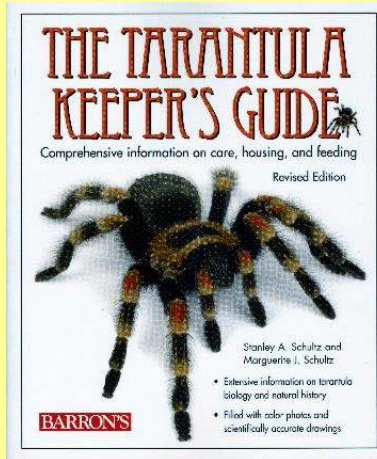


TABLE OF CONTENTS (EXPANDED VERSION)

Preface.....	vii
Introduction.....	1
The Mythical, Mystical Tarantula.....	1
Will the Real Tarantula Please Stand Up?.....	6
PART I: JUMP START.....	7
1: Read Me First - The Game Plan.....	9
As We Begin.....	9
Welcome Home!.....	9
For the Record.....	9
Sorting It All Out.....	10
The Generic Cage.....	10
Putting It All Together.....	12
One Last Issue.....	13
What Kind Is It, Really?.....	13
Mug Shots.....	13
The Name of the Game.....	14
Look in the Index.....	14
'Net Search.....	15
If You Still Can't Figure Out What It Is..	16
Finally, Coming Up To Speed.....	16
Additional Considerations.....	16

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

New Kids on the Block.	16
Keeping It Simple.	17
PART II: THE SCIENTIFIC TARANTULA.	19
2: The Physical Tarantula.	21
Anatomy and Physiology.	21
External Features.	21
Exoskeleton...	21
The Body...	23
Appendages.. . . .	24
Bristles...	28
Ecdysis/Molting...	32
The Exuvium...	38
Instars, Embryology, and Development.. . . .	38
Implications of Ecdysis.. . . .	40
Loss of Limb.. . . .	42
Regeneration...	43
Internal Structure...	44
Endoskeleton.. . . .	44
Nervous System.. . . .	45
Circulatory System.. . . .	46
Respiratory System...	48
Digestive System...	49
Excretory System.. . . .	52
Reproductive System.. . . .	53
Musculature and Movement.. . . .	54
Silk...	56
Metabolism and Thermoregulation...	57
The Exuvium, Revisited.	59
3: The Name of the Tarantula.	61
The Big Picture.. . . .	61
The Vernacular Tarantula.	61
The Authoritative Tarantula.	63
The Gospel According to Linné.. . . .	63
The Gospel According to Darwin.	64
The Teeming Hordes.	65
One Big Mess.	65
The Gospel According to the ICZN...	68
The Gospel According to Phylocode...	68
And Behind Door Number Five.	69
Taxonomy and Classification.	69
The Family Tree.	69
Nondefinition of a Species.. . . .	75
A Little History in a Classical Vein...	76
The Name of the Game.	77
Identification.	78
Three Cases of Whiplash...	79
<u>Brachypelma</u>	80
<u>Aphonopelma</u>	80
<u>Grammostola</u>	80
The Light at the End of the Tunnel...	80

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

4: Natural History.....	82
Distribution.....	82
Lifestyle.....	83
Habitat.....	83
Terra Firma.....	83
Life as a Nomad.....	84
Up On The Roof.....	84
Humble Abode.....	85
Life in the Colonies.....	86
LIFE IN THE COMMUNE.....	87
The Roomies.....	88
Foods and Feeding.....	88
The Menu.....	88
Boom and Bust.....	89
Feeding Waltz.....	90
Diurnal Cycles.....	91
Annual Cycles.....	91
Life Cycle.....	93
Maturation.....	94
Sex Life.....	95
Loading His Guns.....	95
Skirt Chaser.....	96
Baiting the Tiger.....	96
Pheromones.....	97
Secret Password.....	97
Copulation.....	98
"I'm Outta Here!".....	99
Motherhood.....	100
Timing.....	100
Duds.....	101
Double Clutching.....	101
Brooding.....	102
The Grand Debut.....	102
Wild Kids.....	102
The Size of Things.....	102
Ants in Your Pants!.....	103
Surviving in the 'Hood.....	103
Failure to Launch.....	104
Longevity.....	105
Males.....	105
In The Wild.....	105
In Captivity.....	105
Females.....	106
In The Wild.....	106
In Captivity.....	106
General Considerations.....	107
Size.....	107
Infamy.....	108
Behavior.....	109
Sound.....	109

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Grooming.	110
PART III: TARANTULAS AND US.	111
5: The Useful Tarantula.	113
Food.	113
Cosmetics.	113
Mythology and Religion.	113
Arts and Entertainment.	114
Commerce.	114
Research.	115
Witless Pranks.	115
6: The Pet Tarantula.	116
Ethical Considerations.	116
Do Your Homework!.. . . .	116
A Pickin' and A Choosin'.	117
The Right Kind.	117
The Broad View.	117
Not So Deadly Tarantulas.	117
Personality Types.	118
A Biased Recommendation.	119
The Right Sex.	120
The Right Age.	120
Adults and Immatures.	120
Spiderlings.	121
The Right Price.	122
The Right Source.	122
Mail-order Spiders.	122
Neighborhood Pet Shop.	123
Shows and Swap Meets.	125
Enthusiasts and Collectors.	125
7: Care and Maintenance.	126
Setting The Stage.	126
A Little Philosophy.	126
Natural Habitat Philosophy.	126
Artificial Habitat Philosophy.	126
But it isn't all that simple.	126
And So We Begin.	127
Caging the Beasts.	127
Confirmed Hermits.	128
All The Myriad Cages.	128
Sizing It Up.	130
Always Exceptions.	133
No Stinkin' Condos In This Town!.	133
Keeping a Lid on It.	133
Substrates.	135
Potting Soil.	135
Peat.	136
Coconut Coir.	138
Garden Soil.	139
Vermiculite.	139
Aquarium Gravel.	140

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Pebbles.....	141
Sand.....	141
Cat Litter.....	141
Wood Shavings.....	141
Chipped bark.....	141
Ground Corn Cob.....	141
Artificial Turf Carpeting.....	142
Household Carpeting.....	142
Mixing It Up.....	142
Getting Weird.....	143
Burrowing.....	143
In Defense of a Burrow.....	143
Why Not To Burrow.....	143
The Recipe.....	144
The Hardware.....	144
Interior Decor.....	148
Decorations.....	148
Retreats.....	150
Temperature, By Degrees.....	151
The Trend.....	151
Maxed Out.....	152
Minned Out.....	152
But how can that be?.....	152
Optimal Temperature.....	153
Guidelines.....	153
Numberless.....	155
Bucking the Trend.....	155
If You Just Have To, Anyway.....	156
A Ray Of Light.....	158
Cycles.....	158
A Matter of Intensity.....	158
A Matter Of Color.....	158
Stealth Tarantulas.....	159
H ₂ O: The Importance of Wetness.....	159
Cool, Clear Water.....	159
Humidity.....	162
Vaporware.....	163
Bucking the Trend, Again.....	163
Numberless, Again.....	164
Strange Relations.....	164
Strategies.....	164
So, how do you know?.....	166
Food and Feeding.....	166
The First Supper.....	166
The Basic Menu.....	167
Crickets: Tarantulas' Manna From Heaven.....	167
How Big? How much? How Often?.....	169
Alternate Foods.....	171
Something With A Little Meat On It.....	174
Maybe Not.....	176

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Picky Eaters..	178
Cleaning.	179
Frequency..	179
Technique..	180
Cagemates.	181
Animals..	181
Isopods..	182
Living Plants..	183
Life in the Commune, Revisited.	183
Personal Contact - One on One.	184
Different Flavors of Handling...	184
Rationale...	185
Unjustly Accused...	185
Caveats.	186
The Wrong Ways and the Right Ways..	187
Dealing With The Mavericks...	191
Prohibitions..	192
Biting.	192
Old World Tarantulas..	193
New World Tarantulas..	193
De-venomized?.	194
Just How Dangerous?.	194
You've Been Bitten! Now What?.	197
Antivenins..	198
One More Time, Just to Make the Point..	198
The Fine Print..	198
The Peculiar Case of the Mouse...	198
The Human Experiment..	199
Those @#\$%&# Bristles!.	199
A Curious Dichotomy...	199
The Eyes Have It, Not!.. . . .	201
Tarantulas' Medical Issues.	201
Basic Considerations.	202
Dehydration...	206
Extreme Starvation..	206
Molting Problems..	207
Injuries and Hemorrhage.	211
Infectious Matters..	216
Candy Tub...	218
Success?.	219
Parasites...	220
Vermin.	222
Pesticides.	233
Making a Break for It..	234
The Size Of The Matter...	236
8: Five Paths to Nirvana.	239
The Arid Species.	239
Representative Species.	239
Caging and Substrate.	239
Cage Types...	239

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Substrate.....	239
Setup.....	240
Burrowing, Retreats and Decorations.....	240
Environment.	240
Light.....	240
Temperature.....	240
Water/Humidity.....	240
Care Regimen.....	240
Food and Feeding.....	240
Cleaning.....	241
Additional Considerations.....	241
The Obligate Burrowers.....	241
Representative Species.....	241
Caging and Substrate.....	241
Cage Types.....	241
Substrates.....	242
Setup.....	242
Burrowing, Retreats and Decorations.....	242
Environment.	242
Light.....	242
Temperature.....	242
Water/Humidity.....	242
Care Regimen.....	243
Food and Feeding.....	243
Cleaning.....	243
Additional Considerations.....	243
The Swamp Dwellers.....	244
Representative Species.....	244
Caging And Substrate.....	244
Cage Types.....	244
Substrates.....	244
Setup.....	244
Burrowing, Retreats and Decorations.....	244
Environment.	244
Light.....	244
Temperature.....	244
Water/Humidity.....	244
Care Regimen.....	245
Food and Feeding.....	245
Cleaning.....	245
Additional Considerations.....	245
Mites.....	245
The Garden.....	245
Jungle Rot.....	246
Fungal Infections.....	246
Bacterial Infections.....	246
The Arboreal Species.....	246
Representative Species.....	246
Caging And Substrate.....	246
Cage Types.....	246

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Substrates.....	247
Setup.....	248
Burrowing, Retreats and Decorations.....	248
Environment.	249
Light.....	249
Temperature.....	249
Water/Humidity.....	249
Care Regimen.....	251
Food and Feeding.....	251
Cleaning.....	252
Additional Considerations.....	252
The Babies.....	253
Representative Species.....	253
Caging And Substrate.....	253
Cage Types.....	253
Substrates.....	254
Setup.....	255
Burrowing, Retreats and Decorations.....	255
Environment.	255
Light.....	255
Temperature.....	255
Water/Humidity.....	255
Care Regimen.....	256
Food and Feeding.....	256
Cleaning.....	256
Additional Considerations.....	256
The Right Sex.....	256
As They Grow.....	256
Growin' Up.....	257
Precocious Little Demons.....	257
9: The Well-Bred Tarantula.....	259
A Difficult Project.....	259
Success at Last.....	259
Not Another Get-Rich-Quick Scheme!.....	260
Breeding Stock.....	260
Is It a Boy or a Girl?.....	261
Game Plan.....	263
Caging.....	263
Environment.....	265
Timing.....	265
In Preparation.....	265
The Main Event.....	266
Introduction.....	266
Sex Life Of The Troglodyte: Burrowers.....	266
Out in the Open: Non-Burrowers.....	266
Athletic Sex: The Arboreals.....	267
Additional Considerations.....	268
Sayonara.....	268
Turn-Offs.....	268
Maternity And Prenatal Care.....	270

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Burrowing..	270
Non-Burrowing..	271
Arboreals...	272
The Blessed Event.	272
Life's Little Necessities.	274
Humidity..	274
Temperature..	274
Agitation..	275
Perinatal Care.	275
Au Naturel..	276
Artificial Incubation..	277
In Anticipation.	282
Dormitory Living..	282
The Thousand Little Hermits...	283
The Grand Debut.	285
Automatic Release..	285
Manual Release..	286
The OK Corral...	286
Hello World!	287
Continuing Care.	288
Feeding...	288
Watering..	290
Temperature..	291
Dormitory Living Revisited..	291
Cannibalism..	291
Arboreal Babies, Always an Exception..	292
Movin' On Up...	292
Continuing Care.	294
Growth Rates..	294
As They Grow..	295
Peripheral Matters.	295
Emergency Preparedness..	295
Pedigrees And Inbreeding...	295
Hybridization.	296
Spreading The Seed...	298
Just For The Record...	298
Hot Dates..	298
Prenatal Records..	298
10: Catching Your Own.	301
Gear and Trappings.	301
Where to Collect...	302
When to Collect.	303
How Many to Collect..	303
Techniques...	304
Flooding...	304
Variation #1...	304
Variation #2...	305
Digging.	306
Road Cruisin'...	307
The Noble Vagabond.	307

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Up On the Roof.....	308
Transitory Lodging.....	308
Containers.....	308
Packaging.....	308
Hazards.....	309
Temperature Extremes.....	309
The Law.....	309
Violating the "Olde Homestead".....	310
Personal Safety.....	310
Ecological Etiquette.....	310
Museum Specimens.....	312
Seeking the Savant.....	312
The Facts, Ma'am, Just the Facts.....	312
Preparation and Submission.....	314
Euthanasia.....	314
Pickled Tarantulas.....	314
Packing and Shipping.....	315
Labeling.....	315
Exuvia.....	316
PART IV: SELECTED SPECIES.....	317
11: <u>Avicularia avicularia</u> (L., 1758), The Pinktoe Tarantula.....	319
Taxonomy and Nomenclature.....	319
Subfamily.....	319
Related Species.....	319
Scientific Name (History).....	319
Common names.....	319
Physical Description.....	319
Body Habitus.....	319
Size.....	320
Color/Markings.....	320
In Nature.....	320
RANGE.....	320
Habitat.....	320
Lifestyle.....	320
As Pets.....	320
Care.....	320
Stereotype.....	320
Departures.....	321
Personal Characteristics.....	321
Demeanor.....	321
Handling.....	321
Biting.....	322
Venom Toxicity.....	322
Longevity.....	322
Additional Considerations.....	322
Related Species.....	322
Care of Related Species.....	323
Breeding.....	323
Communalism.....	323
Price Guidelines.....	323

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

12: <u>Aphonopelma</u> spp. Pocock, 1901. The North American Brown Tarantulas.	324
Taxonomy and Nomenclature.	324
Subfamily.	324
Related Species.	324
Scientific Name (History).	324
Common names.	325
Physical Description.	326
Body Habitus.	326
Size.	326
Color/Markings.	326
In Nature.	326
Range.	326
Habitat.	327
Lifestyle.	327
As Pets.	327
Care.	327
Stereotype.	327
Departures.	327
Personal Characteristics.	328
Demeanor.	328
Handling.	328
Biting.	328
Venom Toxicity.	328
Longevity.	328
Additional Considerations.	329
<u>Aphonopelma moderatum</u> , the Rio Grande Gold Tarantula.	329
Price Guidelines.	329
13: <u>Brachypelma smithi</u> (Pick.-Cambr., 1897), the Mexican Redknee Tarantula.	330
Taxonomy and Nomenclature.	330
Subfamily.	330
Related Species.	330
Scientific Name (History).	331
Common Names.	331
Physical Description.	331
Body Habitus.	331
Size.	331
Color/Markings.	331
In Nature.	331
Range.	331
Habitat.	331
Lifestyle.	331
As Pets.	331
Care.	331
Stereotype.	331
Departures.	332
Personal Characteristics.	332
Demeanor.	332
Handling.	332
Biting.	332
Venom Toxicity.	332

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Longevity.....	332
Additional Considerations.....	333
Price Guidelines.....	335
14: <u>Grammostola rosea</u> (Walckenaer, 1837), the Chilean Rose Tarantula.....	336
Taxonomy and Nomenclature.....	336
Subfamily.....	336
Related Species.....	336
Scientific Name (History).....	336
Common Names.....	336
Physical Description.....	337
Body Habitus.....	337
Size.....	337
Color/Markings.....	337
In Nature.....	338
RANGE.....	338
Habitat.....	338
Lifestyle.....	338
As Pets.....	339
Care.....	339
Stereotype.....	339
Departures.....	339
Personal Characteristics.....	342
Demeanor.....	342
Handling.....	342
Biting.....	342
Venom Toxicity.....	342
Longevity.....	342
Additional Considerations.....	343
Surprise!.....	343
<u>Grammostola cala</u>	343
<u>Grammostola pulchra</u>	343
What the Future Holds.....	343
Price Guidelines.....	343
15: <u>Poecilotheria regalis</u> Pocock, 1899, The Indian Ornamental Tarantula.....	344
Taxonomy and Nomenclature.....	344
Subfamily.....	344
Related Species.....	344
Scientific Name (History).....	344
Common names.....	344
Physical Description.....	344
Body Habitus.....	344
Size.....	344
Color/Markings.....	344
In Nature.....	345
Range.....	345
Habitat.....	345
Lifestyle.....	345
As Pets.....	346
Care.....	346
Stereotype.....	346

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.

Departures..	346
Personal Characteristics..	347
Demeanor..	347
Handling..	347
Biting..	348
Venom Toxicity..	348
Longevity..	348
Additional Considerations..	348
Price Guidelines..	348
16: <u>Theraphosa blondi</u> (Latreille, 1804), the Goliath Birdeater Tarantula..	349
Taxonomy and Nomenclature..	349
Subfamily..	349
Related Species..	349
Scientific Name (History)..	349
Common names..	349
Physical Description..	349
Body Habitus..	349
Size..	349
Color/Markings..	350
In Nature..	350
RANGE..	350
Habitat..	350
Lifestyle..	351
As Pets..	352
Care..	352
Stereotype..	352
Departures..	352
Feeding..	352
Personal Characteristics..	352
Demeanor..	352
Handling..	352
Biting..	353
Venom Toxicity..	354
Longevity..	355
Additional Considerations..	355
Goliath Birdeaters from the Beginning..	355
Goliath Birdeaters' "Little Friends"..	355
The Better Alternatives..	355
Why You Shouldn't Buy a Goliath..	355
So, Why Buy a Goliath?..	356
Price Guidelines..	356
Part V: Appendices..	357
Appendix A: Resources..	359
Homework..	359
Reading Material..	359
E-Info..	359
Enthusiast Organizations..	360
Professional Organizations..	360
Appendix B: Bibliography..	362

Please note that these page numbers may differ slightly from those in the published version of the *Tarantula Keeper's Guide, Third Edition*, because of minor formatting changes between the manuscript version and the published version, because some minor headings may have been elevated to higher levels, or because some minor headings may have been disregarded entirely. If you cannot locate the item you seek, look on the next previous page or next following page.