



Pinktoe Tarantula Care Guide

Avicularia avicularia — Linnaeus, 1758

Experience	Lifespan	Adult Legspan	Origin
Beginner (arboreal)	Up to 12 years (females)	5–6 in DLS	Northern South America

Natural History

Avicularia avicularia — the Common or Guyana Pinktoe — is an arboreal species ranging widely across northern South America, including Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela, and Trinidad. It lives in the mid-to-upper canopy of tropical forest, where it spins silken tube-webs among branches and where steady airflow keeps the humid air fresh.

Because it comes from the breezy canopy rather than a sealed hollow, it needs humidity **paired with good ventilation** — but it is markedly more forgiving on this point than its island cousin *Caribena versicolor*, which is why it is the species most often recommended as a first arboreal tarantula.

Adults have a velvety dark brown to black body with a metallic sheen and the signature pink-tipped feet that give the group its name. Generally calm but fast and jumpy, the Pinktoe is the classic gateway into arboreal keeping.

Housing

This is an arboreal species, so height matters more than floor space. Use a tall enclosure with cross-ventilation (vents on opposite sides or front and top) and tall anchor points for webbing. A front- or side-opening enclosure is ideal, as reaching down from above startles the spider and tears its web.

Life Stage	Enclosure	Notes
Spiderling (under 1")	Tall vented vial / small arboreal cup	Vertical cork, anchor points, light moisture, heavy ventilation
Juvenile (1–3")	Tall acrylic or 2–4 gal vertical	Cork tube, fake foliage, cross-ventilation
Sub-adult / Adult (3"+)	12×12×18 in (or taller) vertical	Vertical cork bark, plants, water dish, strong cross-ventilation

Provide a vertical cork bark slab or tube against one wall, plus fake plants, so the spider can build its tube-web off the ground. A shallow layer of substrate (2–3 in) holds light moisture and cushions any fall, but this species lives up top, not in the dirt.

Temperature & Humidity

Warm, humid, and well-ventilated mirrors the island canopy. Achieving humidity *without* stagnant air is the whole game with this species.

Parameter	Target	Notes
Temperature	75–85°F (24–29°C)	Stable warmth; avoid sustained drops below 70°F
Ambient Humidity	65–75% RH	Moderately high — always paired with good cross-ventilation
Moisture	Light misting	Mist part of the web/wall every few days; let it dry between
Water	Small water dish	Provide a dish; the spider also drinks droplets off misting

MOST COMMON MISTAKE

Sealing the enclosure to trap humidity. Like all pinktoes, *Avicularia avicularia* suffers in stuffy, stagnant air. The correct approach is good airflow plus regular light misting — never a closed, swampy box.

Feeding

Pinktoes are active, visual hunters that ambush prey from their web. They are enthusiastic feeders and often snatch prey mid-air.

Prey: Gut-loaded crickets and flying insects, plus small Dubia roaches. Keep prey no larger than the spider's abdomen. Flying prey suits this aerial hunter well.

Frequency: Spiderlings twice a week, juveniles every 5–7 days, adults every 7–10 days. Arboreals are more prone to dehydration than terrestrials, so keep moisture and water consistent.

Remove uneaten prey within 24 hours so it cannot disturb the spider in its web retreat.

Moulting

Pinktoes typically moult inside their tube-web, often on their backs or sides. Each moult deepens the green-and-red adult colouration. Growth is moderate, slowing to once or twice a year in adults.

Pre-moult signs: A darkened abdomen, food refusal, and increased time sealed in the web. Remove all live prey at the first signs.

Post-moult: Leave the spider completely undisturbed and wait 7–14 days before feeding so the new exoskeleton and fangs harden. Keep humidity steady throughout — fresh moults are vulnerable to drying out.

Handling

The Pinktoe is docile and rarely defensive, but it is extremely fast and known for sudden leaps. A startled pinktoe can launch off a hand without warning, and a fall from height is dangerous for an arboreal spider. For these reasons handling is generally discouraged, and is always at the keeper's own risk.

This species has weak urticating hairs (Type II) and may also flick faecal matter as a defensive bluff rather than stand its ground. Keep any unavoidable contact — such as rehousing — low, calm, and over a soft surface, and work with the enclosure rather than the spider whenever possible.

This guide was compiled using commonly accepted husbandry practices from experienced keepers and industry-standard tarantula care resources.

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