



Blue Earth Tiger Tarantula Care Guide

Chilobrachys dyscolus — Simon, 1886

Experience	Lifespan	Adult Legspan	Origin
Advanced	Up to 12 years (females)	5–6 in DLS	Southeast Asia

Natural History

Chilobrachys dyscolus — the Blue Earth Tiger — is a fossorial Old World species from the forests of Southeast Asia, including Vietnam and southern China. It lives underground in deep burrow systems, lining its tunnels and the entrance with heavy silk and emerging to ambush passing prey.

Its care centres on depth and humidity: a tall column of moisture-retaining substrate for burrowing, kept warm and humid but ventilated. Adults are highly secretive and spend most of their lives below ground, so this is a species kept for the spectacle of its webbing and the occasional dramatic glimpse rather than constant visibility.

Freshly moulted adults and subadults show a stunning dark metallic-blue sheen across the body. It is also a classic Old World earth tiger — fast, alert, and quick to throw a threat posture — with **no urticating hairs** and potent venom, making it a species for experienced keepers only.

Housing

The Blue Earth Tiger is an obligate burrower. Substrate depth is everything — give it a deep column of packed substrate to excavate, and prioritise a secure, escape-proof enclosure, as this species is fast and will exploit any gap.

Life Stage	Enclosure	Notes
Spiderling (under 1")	Vial / vented container with deep substrate	Damp substrate, burrow depth, small water source
Juvenile (1–3")	Deep 16 oz – 1 gal container	Packed moist substrate, starter burrow, water dish
Sub-adult / Adult (3"+)	5–10 gal with deep substrate	6–8 in of packed substrate, water dish, good airflow

Provide 6–8 inches of packed, moisture-retaining substrate — coconut fibre and topsoil — so the spider can construct a proper burrow. A water dish should always be present even though the spider rarely emerges to use it. Expect heavy webbing and silk "curtains" at the burrow mouth.

Temperature & Humidity

Warm and humid reflects the Southeast Asian forest floor. Maintain moisture by watering one side of the enclosure rather than misting, and keep air moving to prevent stagnation.

Parameter	Target	Notes
Temperature	75–82°F (24–28°C)	Stable warmth; avoid sustained drops below 70°F
Ambient Humidity	70–80% RH	High — maintained through damp substrate, not heavy misting
Substrate	Damp, packed	Pour water down one side to keep the lower layers moist
Water	Water dish	Always present, even though the spider rarely emerges to drink

SAFETY FIRST

This is a fast, defensive Old World species with potent venom and no urticating hairs. During the rare times it is exposed — rehousing or burrow collapse — work in a sealed room with a catch cup ready, and never reach in by hand. Confirm the lid latches after every maintenance.

Feeding

The Blue Earth Tiger is a fast, aggressive ambush feeder that snatches prey from its burrow entrance. It is a reliable eater but may ignore food while sealed in for a moult or simply staying underground.

Prey: Gut-loaded crickets, Dubia roaches, and other feeder insects. Keep prey no larger than the spider's abdomen.

Frequency: Juveniles every 5–7 days, adults every 7–10 days. Drop prey near the burrow entrance and check later rather than waiting at the enclosure.

Remove uneaten prey within 24 hours, especially if the spider is in pre-moult underground.

Moulting

The Blue Earth Tiger moults underground and usually seals its burrow beforehand. A fresh moult brings out the dark metallic-blue sheen at its most vivid. Growth is fast when the spider is kept warm and well-fed.

Pre-moult signs: A darkened abdomen, food refusal, and a sealed burrow entrance. Remove all live prey at the first signs and keep the substrate damp.

Post-moult: Leave the spider completely undisturbed and wait 1–2 weeks before feeding so the new exoskeleton and fangs harden fully. Keep humidity steady throughout.

Handling

Handling is strongly discouraged for the Blue Earth Tiger. As an Old World species it has **no urticating hairs** — its defences are speed and a bite carrying potent venom that can cause significant local pain, swelling, and cramping. Its underground, defensive nature offers no upside to handling.

Treat it as an observation-and-webbing display species. Use long tools for all maintenance, keep a catch cup ready, and only ever expose the spider during essential rehousing in a sealed work area. Seek medical attention for any bite that produces severe or spreading symptoms.

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

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