Brazilian Blue Tarantula

Lasiocyano sazimai (Bertani, Nagahama & Fukushima, 2011)

formerly Pterinopelma sazimai

Grim Arachnids Care Guide · May 2026

QUICK FACTS

Scientific Name	Lasiocyano sazimai (Bertani, Nagahama & Fukushima, 2011)
Former Name	Pterinopelma sazimai — reclassified 2023
Common Names	Brazilian Blue Tarantula, Iridescent Blue Tarantula, Sazima's Tarantula
Family	Theraphosidae
Type	New World terrestrial — opportunistic burrower
Native Range	Bahia, Minas Gerais & Chapada Diamantina, Brazil
Adult Leg Span	5.5–6 in (14–16 cm)
Lifespan	Females: estimated 12–15 years | Males: 3–5 years
Growth Rate	Medium
Experience Level	Intermediate
Temperament	Skittish, nervous; prefers flight over fight
Urticating Hairs	Yes — Type III; readily flicked when threatened
Venom	Mild — not medically significant in healthy adults; bite is painful
Communal Keeping	Not recommended

NATURAL HISTORY

Lasiocyano sazimai is endemic to a relatively small area of eastern Brazil, centered on the Chapada Diamantina National Park in Bahia state and extending into neighbouring Minas Gerais. The species was formally described in 2011, making it one of the newer entries in the tarantula hobby, and in 2012 it was recognised on the International Institute for Species Exploration's Top 10 New Species list — a rare distinction for an arachnid. In 2023, further molecular and morphological research led to its reclassification from Pterinopelma into the newly established genus Lasiocyano, a name combining the Greek words for 'hairy' and 'blue', a fitting tribute to this spider's most celebrated quality.

The Chapada Diamantina is a highland plateau dominated by Caatinga and Cerrado biomes — seasonally dry forests, open savannas, and dramatic rocky outcrops. Temperatures here are highly variable: summer days can be warm, while winter nights at elevation drop considerably. Rainfall follows a pronounced wet and dry cycle, with the landscape alternating between lush and parched across the year. This environmental seasonality is the key to understanding the species in captivity — it is naturally conditioned to periods of relative drought as well as heavier moisture, and is more adaptable than its vivid appearance might suggest.

In the wild, L. sazimai is found on rocky forest floors, sheltering in crevices, beneath stones and fallen wood, and in self-constructed silk-lined burrows within loose soil. It is primarily nocturnal, emerging after dark to ambush ground-dwelling arthropods. The species is currently classified as endangered in its native range due to ongoing habitat loss from deforestation, agricultural expansion, and wildfires. For this reason it is essential that all captive

specimens originate from established captive-bred bloodlines — purchasing wild-caught individuals directly harms conservation efforts for this species.

HOUSING

Enclosure Type & Size

As a terrestrial opportunistic burrower, L. sazimai requires an enclosure that prioritises floor area over height. Excessive vertical space is not beneficial and adds fall risk during maintenance. A good rule of thumb is an enclosure whose width is 3–4 times the spider's diagonal leg span. For adults, a footprint of approximately 35 cm × 30 cm (roughly 14 in × 12 in) works well; many keepers use standard 10-gallon equivalent plastic terrariums with front-opening doors for safer access. Spiderlings can be raised in small ventilated deli cups or vials, graduating through appropriately scaled enclosures as they grow.

> ■ **NOTE**
> This species is notably skittish and can move with surprising speed when disturbed. Using an enclosure slightly larger than the minimum gives you more reaction time during maintenance. Front-opening enclosures are strongly preferred over top-opening to reduce stress on the spider.

Substrate

Provide a minimum of 5–6 inches (12–15 cm) of substrate for adults to allow burrowing. A moisture-retentive blend of coconut fibre (coir) and organic topsoil works extremely well, as does a coir-and-peat moss mix. Avoid substrates containing added fertilisers, pesticides, or perlite. The substrate should be packed firmly enough to hold a burrow without collapsing. A useful technique is to keep one side of the enclosure slightly drier than the other, which allows the spider to self-regulate its preferred moisture level.

Hides & Decor

Provide at least one curved piece of cork bark large enough for the spider to fully conceal itself beneath. This acts as both a hide and a burrowing anchor point, as the spider will often excavate beneath it. Flat cork tiles, half-log hides, or stacked slate fragments can also be used. Because the species is naturally found among rocky outcrops, inert stones may be added for an authentic aesthetic — but ensure they are positioned so that they cannot shift and collapse into any burrow the spider digs. A modest layer of dried leaf litter on the surface adds naturalism and helps retain surface moisture.

Temperature

Room temperature is suitable for this species in most households. A range of 72–78°F (22–26°C) covers the comfortable zone, and temperatures can dip a few degrees lower at night without issue. If your home drops below 65°F (18°C) consistently in winter, a low-wattage heat mat placed on the side of the enclosure (never directly beneath) can provide supplemental warmth. Avoid temperatures above 85°F (29°C), which can cause heat stress. No specialised heating equipment is required for keepers in most temperate or subtropical climates.

Humidity

Maintain ambient humidity between 65–75% RH. The most practical way to achieve this is a combination of a standing water dish and periodic light misting of one side of the enclosure, allowing the other side to dry out between mistings. This moisture gradient is important — it replicates the variable conditions of the Chapada Diamantina and lets the spider choose where it wants to be. The substrate should feel lightly damp in the moist corner, not wet or waterlogged. Good cross-ventilation is essential to prevent stagnant, overly saturated conditions that promote mould and respiratory issues.

FEEDING

Prey & Sizing

L. sazimai is an opportunistic feeder that accepts most commonly available feeder insects. Crickets and dubia roaches are excellent staples. Mealworms, superworms, and waxworms can be offered occasionally as variety but should not make up the bulk of the diet due to their high fat content. Prey size should be no larger than the width of the spider's abdomen — oversized prey can injure a tarantula, especially during and after a moult. Pre-killed or stunned prey is recommended for adult and juvenile specimens as a precaution.

Feeding Frequency

Life Stage	Prey Size	Frequency
Spiderling	Pinhead crickets / fruit flies	2–3× per week
Juvenile	Small crickets / small roaches	1–2× per week
Adult	Medium/large crickets or roaches	Once every 7–10 days

Refusal & Fasting

It is normal for L. sazimai to refuse food for extended periods, especially in the weeks leading up to a moult. A spider that has suddenly stopped eating and whose abdomen appears dark or dull should be assumed to be in pre-moult. Do not attempt to re-offer prey during this window. Remove any uneaten live prey items from the enclosure within 24 hours to prevent them from stressing or injuring the spider.

WATER

A shallow water dish should be available at all times for juveniles and adults. The dish should be no deeper than the spider is tall — bottle caps or very shallow petri dishes work well for smaller specimens. Change the water every few days and scrub the dish with boiling water periodically to prevent bacterial growth. Spiderlings should not be given a water dish as they can drown in even shallow water; instead, lightly mist one corner of the enclosure so they can drink from droplets on the enclosure walls. Allow the enclosure to dry partially between mistings.

HANDLING

Handling is not recommended for this species. L. sazimai is highly skittish and will typically bolt for cover the moment it perceives a threat. A fall from handling height can rupture the abdomen of a tarantula and is frequently fatal. Additionally, this species is a prolific urticating hair kicker — it will flick Type III hairs from its abdomen when it feels

cornered, and these hairs cause significant skin irritation and can be dangerous if they reach the eyes. If handling is unavoidable for enclosure maintenance, work low to the ground and use a soft brush or catch cup rather than bare hands. All handling is at the keeper's own discretion and carries inherent risk.

MOULTING

Signs of Pre-Moult

The spider will typically stop eating several weeks before a moult. The abdomen may appear darker, duller, or slightly shrunken. The spider may seal itself into its burrow or become more reclusive. Some individuals will spin a moult mat of silk on the ground. Do not disturb the enclosure during this period and remove all live feeders.

During the Moult

The spider will roll onto its back to moult. This is completely normal and does not indicate distress — do not intervene. The process can take anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours depending on the size of the individual. Ensure humidity is at the higher end of the target range (around 70–75%) during this time to prevent the exuvium from drying out and trapping the spider. If a moult appears stuck, consult an experienced keeper before attempting to assist.

Post-Moult Care

After moulting, the spider's new exoskeleton will be soft and vulnerable. Do not offer food for at least 10–14 days following a moult, and wait until the fangs have fully darkened to their normal colour before resuming feeding. The fresh moult will temporarily intensify the iridescent blue colouration — this is the best time to appreciate the species at its most vivid. The shed exuvium can be removed from the enclosure at any point after the spider has moved away from it.

HEALTH & COMMON ISSUES

Dehydration

Indicated by a shrivelled, prune-like abdomen. Ensure fresh water is always available and increase misting frequency. A dehydrated spider can often recover with proper humidity and access to water.

Moulting complications

Insufficient humidity is the most common cause of a stuck moult. Maintaining humidity at the upper range of the target band during pre-moult significantly reduces this risk. Never forcibly remove a stuck moult without expert guidance.

Mites

A sudden increase in hair-flicking behaviour when the spider is otherwise undisturbed can indicate mite infestation. Inspect the enclosure carefully. Sterilised substrate and regular cleaning prevent most infestations.

Falls

A ruptured abdomen from a fall is a veterinary emergency. Keep substrate depth generous so that any fall during maintenance results in a soft landing. Moist substrate applied gently to the wound area may help temporarily while seeking advice from an invertebrate vet.

Slow growth

This species has a moderate growth rate that is slower than many commonly kept New World tarantulas. This is normal — do not attempt to accelerate growth through overfeeding, which stresses the animal.

BREEDING

Males typically reach sexual maturity at 2–3 years. Mature males develop tibial hooks and bulbous pedipalps. Females reach reproductive maturity around 3–4 years and are generally larger and more robust than males.

Before introducing the male, ensure the female is well-fed over several weeks to reduce the risk of cannibalism. Some breeders report better pairing success when humidity is slightly elevated in the days preceding introduction. Introduce the male into the female's enclosure in the evening when both animals are more active. Observe the pairing closely and be prepared to separate the animals if aggression escalates. Wait at least one month after the female's most recent moult before attempting to pair, as any moult following a successful pairing will destroy the stored reproductive material before eggs can be produced.

A well-fed female that has successfully mated will eventually construct an egg sac. The sac should be removed for artificial incubation approximately four weeks after it is produced. All captive breeding should use established captive-bred stock only — this species is endangered in the wild and the hobby has a direct responsibility to maintain healthy captive populations without adding pressure to wild populations.

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

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