



Trinidad Chevron Tarantula Care Guide

Psalmopoeus cambridgei — Pocock, 1895

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

Natural History

Psalmopoeus cambridgei — the Trinidad Chevron — is a large arboreal species native to the island of Trinidad. It anchors heavy tube-webs in trees, rock faces, and tall cover, and younger spiders will readily burrow and web at ground level before taking to the heights as they mature.

Unlike the docile pinktoes, the Chevron belongs to a genus with **no urticating hairs** and a more potent venom than typical New World terrestrials. It is fast, can be defensive, and is a notorious escape artist that will exploit the smallest gap — which is why it is best suited to keepers with some experience rather than first-timers.

Adults are a muted olive-brown with rich orange flashes on the legs and a row of pale chevron (V-shaped) markings down the abdomen. Striking, fast-growing, and hardy, it is a rewarding step up for keepers ready to respect its speed and venom.

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	70–80% RH	High — paired with good cross-ventilation
Moisture	Damp substrate + misting	Keep the lower substrate lightly moist; mist part of the web periodically
Water	Water dish	Provide a dish; the spider also drinks misted droplets

ESCAPE RISK

The Trinidad Chevron is a powerful, fast escape artist that will bolt through any gap during maintenance. Always rehouse and feed with the enclosure on the floor of a closed room, keep a catch cup ready, and double-check that the lid seals completely.

Feeding

The Trinidad Chevron is a fast, aggressive feeder that ambushes prey from its web with startling speed. It is one of the most reliable eaters in the hobby and rarely refuses a meal outside of pre-moult.

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

The Chevron typically moults inside its tube-web. Growth is relatively fast for a tarantula, with juveniles moulting often before slowing to once or twice a year as adults. Each moult sharpens the orange leg flashes and abdominal chevrons.

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

Handling is not recommended for the Trinidad Chevron. It is very fast, can be defensive, and carries a more potent venom than typical New World terrestrials — bites are reported as painful with localised effects such as swelling and cramping, and individual reactions vary. There is no safe upside to handling a spider this quick.

As a member of genus *Psalmopoeus*, this species has **no urticating hairs** — its defence is speed and, if cornered, a bite. Interact with the enclosure, not the spider: use long tools for maintenance, keep a catch cup on hand, and rehouse over a contained surface in a closed room. 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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