

# Desert Tarantula

Desert tarantulas are large spiders growing up to 4 inches long. They have eight large walking legs and two pedipalps or appendages by their mouth that are used for sensing surroundings and moving around food. On their face they have eight eyes in two tight clusters.

Tarantulas have two large fangs. The fangs are used to inject venom into prey. Although not deadly to humans, a bite can be very painful. In addition, on the spider's underbelly they have many finely barbed hairs that can be flung with the tarantula's back legs into the face of any threat. These tiny hairs can be very irritating if they stick in the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Female tarantulas can live up to 25 years, but males only live 10 to 12 years.

