



Black Beauty Insect Care Sheet

Species Name:

Peruphasma schultei

Adult Size:

5-6cm

Lifespan:

1 year

Breeding Age:

5-6 months



Black beauty stick insects *Peruphasma schultei* captivate with their striking ebony coloration and elegant appearance. Native to Peru, these arboreal insects are renowned for their graceful movements and fascinating behaviours. Their slender bodies, resembling delicate twigs, aid in camouflaging amidst forest foliage, evading predators adeptly. Their diet primarily consists of various leaves, particularly bramble and oak. They're notable for their parthenogenetic reproduction, allowing females to produce fertile eggs without mating. In captivity, they're popular among insect enthusiasts for their low maintenance and intriguing behaviours, making them a unique addition to insect collections and educational displays.

Housing:

Enclosure: As arboreal creatures your Stick Insect will enjoy a vivarium which is tall, a 45x45x60cm glass terrarium is ideal.

Substrate: Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for most species, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss.

Temperature:

Provide a temperature gradient to allow your tarantula to thermoregulate. The warm end of the enclosure should be 26°C with the cooler side of the terrarium being 21°C.

Use a heat source like a ceramic lamp or a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 15-21°C.

Lighting:

Stick Insects do not require UVB lighting to survive, however they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

Diet:

Feeding: Stick Insects are entirely herbivorous, in captivity they will eat wild plants such as bramble, hawthorn, ivy, and rose bush leaves.

If you collect food from outside ensure you wash them before they are given to the stick insects.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 70-80% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water or a dish with bug gel to allow the insects to drink droplets from the surface. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding. Additionally providing a shallow dish for the food to retain moisture is a good way of extending the life of your food.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new animals before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for stick insects may vary slightly based on individual needs and species, so observe your animals behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.