Aphonopelma seemanni Care Sheet

Aphonopelma seemanni - Costa Rican Zebra Tarantula

Common Name: Costa Rican Zebra T
Scientific Name: Aphonopelma Seemanni
Origin: Costa rica / Venezuela
Type: New World Terrestrial
Temperature: 75F
Humidity: 65-70%
Max Size: aprox 6"
Speed: Slow /Medium
Temperament: Calm, but easily startled
Venom: Mild
Growth Rate: Slow

Description
A popular beginner spider, Zebra T's are beautiful creatures with distinct white stripes on the legs, and pedipalps, and a 'furry' tan coloured underside. They are New world T's, and are small to average sized, with adult females reaching not much more than 6 or 7". Obligate burrowers.

Housing
In housing these spiders, a very thick layer of substrate is essential - 5 inches minimum. I recommend peat moss as the substrate, possibly mixed with 10% vermiculite to retain moisture a bit better. These animals need to burrow, and if you start one under a half plastic plant pot, in all likelihood the spider will extend what you have started, and move in.

Temperature is best kept around 75F, and they like humidity surprisingly LOW at around 60-70%

As well as substrate, you will also need a small water bowl, some cork bark, and a hide. They do seem to appreciate a variety of surfaces on which to sit, so some tank decoration can be helpful.

Feeding
Seemanni do not eat a great deal, and drink even less. However, when they do eat, they like crickets, roaches, and maggots, but are most likely to run away from anything else. Lazy eaters, they do not make a great effort to catch prey, and most of the time will happily wait for it to walk right up to them before acknowledging its presence.

Temperament
Zebra T's are not angry spiders, and will usually walk calmly away from disturbance, or attempt to hide from it. However they are easily startled, and prone to unexpected bursts of speed, and may bolt if surprised, so not a good species to handle if it takes any effort to get them to co-operate with you. They are not hostile to hold, and don't actively feel warm human skin like some spiders, but they really don't like being on unstable surfaces, and tend to use fangs to additionally hold on to whatever they are unhappy about ! They can flick hairs but tend not to unless repeatedly disturbed, and if they do, they are not particularly urticating unless you are sensitive to them.

Notes
Seemanni's are curious, and determined spiders, with a built-in need to explore. This will invariably include some escape attempts (unless their conditions are exactly right for them) and climbing, and if the conditions are very wrong they may also use fangs to wear away silicone sealant, iron meshing and the like, which may be holding the tank together. Careful watching is required, and a reinforced / well designed tank lid. Even better, tweak their conditions until they don't feel the need to leave any more.

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