**Indian Ornamental Tarantula**

**Native to:** Forests and mountains of India- specific to the Gats Mountain Range

**Predators:** birds, large mammals

**Prey:** insects, eggs, small rodents

**Facts:**

* Arboreal
* Potent venom
* They are fast moving
* During their molt they lay on their back with their legs in the air
* Very fragile after a molt because their new exoskeleton has not fully hardened
* Live in holes in trees
* Hunt using asymmetrical funnel webs in the holes they live in rather than hunting like other tarantulas
* Between 7”and 9” when fully grown

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Lack urticulating hairs that other tarantulas have
* Mainly fight or flight
* Venom can be toxic enough to be painful and nauseating to humans, but not lethal
* Have bright yellow “warning” spots under their front legs which show when they are posturing

**Reproduction:**

* 40-50 eggs per clutch
* Females have a tendency to eat the males after mating if they are hungry

**Lifespan:** females live 10-12 years, Males only 2-4

**Handling Tips:**

Haji is a 3 year old. We do not know the gender. Do not handle this animal due to its quick speed and the adverse effects of its toxin. Leave the spider in the display case.