



Care Sheet

Easily Handled

Absolutely harmless, but delicate. Quite at home crawling on their new owners, gently exploring

Great First Pets

Stick Insects feed on common garden leaves, like Eucalyptus (gum) and only require a quick mist with water daily

Stick Insect

Crowned - *Onchestus Rentzi*

Goliath - *Eurycnema goliath*

Spiny Leaf - *Extatosoma tiaratum* (pictured)

Strong - *Anchiale briareus*

Titan - *Acrophylla titan*

General Information

Stick Insects hatch from a small egg and grow by undergoing a series of moults (shedding their outer skeleton) and moults into an adult at about 6 months of age. Stick Insects generally live from eight to eighteen months. This age variation is due to many factors, including species type, temperature and sex of the Stick Insect; females normally live longer than males.

Sexing

Adult females and males are generally quite different in appearance. Females are normally much bigger than males and have limited or no flying ability. Males are smaller and can fly or flutter short distances, depending on the species.

Housing

Stick Insects must have enough room in their enclosure to be able to hang to moult without disturbance. A terrarium, a aquarium or a tub with a mesh lid laced on its end - provided they are big enough - make ideal houses for your Stick Insect. Avoid enclosures which have knitted shade cloth type material coverings as they Stick Insect feet can get caught in the mesh and can result in the loss of a leg. Also avoid enclosures that have small openings as this makes it particularly difficult to replace foliage braches and to get your insect pets in and out without damaging them.

Temperature

Your enclosure needs to be located where temperatures are suitable for your species. Stick Insects require a range

between 16degC to 28degC. Avoid direct sunlight as this can become too hot, also avoid draughty locations. Do not use insecticide or other chemicals anywhere near your insect. You should clean your enclosure on a regular basis, checking for eggs if you wish to keep them.

Feeding/ Diet

Stick Insect eat any types of Eucalypt (Gum) leaves and Acadia (Wattle) species. Small braches with fresh clean leaves should be placed in your enclosure in a container of water. Your stick insect can drown so it is best to have a lid on the container and have small holes for the branches to be put through. Check that your insects are eating; look to see if the leaves are being eaten and if there are droppings in your enclosure. If the aren't eating, try a different type of eucalypt. Braches should be changed once or twice a week or as soon as they start drying out. Always check new branches for predators such as spiders, ants or egg sacks which may harm your insects. Spray foliage with a fine mist once or twice a day to provide humidity and drinking water for the Stick Insect and to maintain the freshness of the foliage... however do not make the enclosure wet.

Handling

Your insect is harmless and ca readily be handled but care must be taken not to damage its delicate limbs as it can grip tightly. It is best to place your hand in front of your pet and encourage it to walk on to you rather than picking it up. pLace it back into the enclosure the same way. Note that they will always try to climb higher so if when putting them back in the enclosure try putting them under a branch.

Moulting

Your insect will moult/ shed its outer skeleton to grow, if you see your insect moulting do not disturb it and allow a day for it's new skeleton to harden before handling it. Sometimes your insect may not moult properly or loose a leg in the process, the man cause of this is that the enclosure is too dry, your insect was disturbed or has insufficient room to moult in. Missing legs in juveniles will gradually grown back with each moult.