



## Giant African Millipede Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Archispirostreptus gigas*

**Adult Size:**

10-15cm

**Lifespan:**

5-10 years

**Breeding Age:**

2-3 years



The Giant African Millipede, *Archispirostreptus gigas*, is a captivating arthropod native to tropical regions of Africa. As one of the largest millipede species, it can reach lengths of up to 15cm, adorned with numerous segments and pairs of legs.

Its cylindrical body features a hard exoskeleton, offering protection against predators. Primarily herbivorous, it also decaying plant matter, aiding in nutrient recycling. These docile creatures are popular in the pet trade due to their gentle nature and low maintenance requirements. Despite their imposing size, Giant African Millipedes contribute to forest ecosystems as efficient decomposers and soil aerators.

## **Housing:**

**Enclosure:** As terrestrial creatures your millipede will enjoy a vivarium which is longer than it is tall, a plastic breeding box is suitable, or a glass terrarium which is 30x30x20cm is also suitable.

**Substrate:** Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for the Giant African Millipede, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss.

## **Temperature:**

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 23-35°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 20-22°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 18-20°C.

## **Lighting:**

Giant African Millipedes do not require any UVB lighting however, they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

## **Diet:**

**Feeding:** Offer a varied diet of fruits and vegetables.

### **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 millipede to drink droplets from the surface. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

### **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 Giant African Millipede may vary slightly based on individual needs, 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.