



Terrestrial Hermit Crab Care Sheet

Species Name:

Coenobitidae sp

Adult Size:

10cm

Lifespan:

10 years

Breeding Age:

2 years



The terrestrial hermit crab, *Coenobita sp.*, is an intriguing crustacean that has adapted to land habitats, primarily tropical and subtropical regions. Like their aquatic counterparts, terrestrial hermit crabs possess a hard exoskeleton and modified gills to retain moisture, enabling them to breathe in air. They exhibit fascinating behaviours, including scavenging for food, climbing trees, and even forming social groups. Terrestrial hermit crabs rely on discarded shells for protection, upgrading to larger ones as they grow. Conservation efforts aim to preserve their unique role in coastal ecosystems and their captivating presence in terrariums worldwide.

Housing:

Enclosure: As terrestrial creatures your Hermit Crabs will enjoy a vivarium which is longer than it is tall, a 60x45x45cm glass terrarium is ideal.

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

Temperature:

Maintain a warmer temperature of 23-29°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 18-24°C.

Lighting:

Asian Forest Scorpions do not require any UVB lighting however, they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

Diet:

Feeding: These hermit crabs are not fussy, in the wild they are scavengers, eating decaying animal and plant matter. In captivity they can eat leafy greens and the occasional fruit, additionally as a source of protein mice and fish make good food options for them.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 70-80% should be maintained.

Provide two water dishes, one with fresh water and one with some salt added into it because they live in coastal areas.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, branches for climbing, and new shells to create a stimulating environment and allow them to grow.

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 crabs before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Terrestrial Hermit Crabs 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.