



## Sunny Stick Insect Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Sungaya inexpectata*

**Adult Size:**

5-8cm

**Lifespan:**

1 year

**Breeding Age:**

5-6 months



Sunny stick insects, scientifically known as, *Sungaya inexpectata*, are striking creatures found in the southern United States and Central America. Their vibrant yellow hue earned them the nickname "sunny," blending seamlessly with foliage. Renowned for their elongated bodies resembling twigs, they employ camouflage to evade predators. Primarily herbivorous, they feed on various leaves, their diet influencing their growth and reproduction. Captivating enthusiasts and researchers alike, sunny stick insects epitomize nature's ingenuity, showcasing adaptation and survival strategies in their intricate ecosystem.

## Housing:

**Enclosure:** As arboreal creatures your Stick Insect will enjoy a vivarium which is tall, a 45x45x60cm glass terrarium is ideal.

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

## Temperature:

Provide a temperature gradient to allow your tarantula to thermoregulate. The warm end of the enclosure should be 26°C with the cooler side of the terrarium being 21°C.

Use a heat source like a ceramic lamp or a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 15-21°C.

## Lighting:

Stick Insects do not require UVB lighting to survive, however they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

## Diet:

**Feeding:** Stick Insects are entirely herbivorous, in captivity they will eat wild plants such as bramble, hawthorn, ivy, and rose bush leaves.

If you collect food from outside ensure you wash them before they are given to the stick insects.



## **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 insects to drink droplets from the surface. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding. Additionally providing a shallow dish for the food to retain moisture is a good way of extending the life of your food.

## **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 stick insects may vary slightly based on individual needs and species, 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.