

# INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES AT THE TORONTO ZOO

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## Australasia Pavilion

Keep straight as you enter the pavilion and once you pass the first set of doors, keep to the right.

### Insects:

Common Name: MacLeay's spectres

Scientific Name: *Extatosomoa tiaratum*

Fast fact: When threatened by a predator or foe, female insects tend to bend their tail over their body and snap their back legs adapting a posture that resembles a scorpion.

Common Name: Thorny devil stick insect

Scientific Name: *Eurycantha calcarata*

Fast fact: During the day, the devil stick insects migrate from their foraging areas to form groups of individuals when resting during the day. Likewise when it gets dark, in order to stay protected from nocturnal predators these insects group up and hide under barks or hollow logs.

## Americas Pavilion

Past the Amphibian Breeding Centre, and through the doors to the right.

### Insects

Common Name: Eastern lubber grasshopper

Scientific Name: *Romalea microptera*

Fast fact: Lubbers display bright colours, which are used to scare off predators by warning them that they are not palatable. In order to scare off approaching predators, the lubber will expand and display red rear wings, which normally are kept hidden under the front wings.

**Common: Brazilian giant cockroach**

Scientific Name: *Blaberus giganteus*

Fast fact: Female cockroaches excrete pheromones that are used as lures to attract males.

## Arachnids

**Common Name: Giant bird-eating spider**

Scientific Name: *Lasiodora parahybana*

Fast fact: In order to deter a chasing predator, the spider will rub its legs against its abdomen, dispelling barbed hairs which can be lodged into the predator causing immense pain or irritation.

**Common Name: Greenbottle blue tarantula**

Scientific Name: *Chromatopelma cyaneopubescens*

Fast fact: They are stealth hunters in the wild, and capture prey by slowly stalking and creeping from behind them. Once close enough, these spiders pounce on their prey and impale them with their hollow fang.

**Common Name: Vinegaroon**

Scientific Name: *Mastigoproctus giganteus*

Fast fact: When threatened by potential foes, the vinegaroon sprays a vinegar-scented, acidic mixture of chemicals from glands located at the base of their tail.

**Common Name: Black Widow Spider**

Scientific Name: *Latrodectus hesperus*

Fast fact: The venom of this particular spider is extremely poisonous and is 15 times stronger than the venom of a rattlesnake. Venom is used for catching prey and for protection from predators.

**Common Name: Mexican Red-kneed Tarantula**

Scientific Name: *Brachypelma smithi*

Fast fact: The special hairs found on the legs of these spiders detect the vibrations released from any moving organisms in their surroundings. This helps them avoid predators and capture prey.

## African Rainforest

Located inside the Burrows and Caves of Africa, which is located to the left of the African Rainforest Pavilion.

## Insects

**Common Name: African cricket**

Scientific Name: *Phaeophilacris bredoides*

Fast fact: Living in dark, cave dwellings has resulted in reduced vision in these insects. Due to the poor vision, cave crickets tend to jump towards any threat in order to scare them away.

## Arachnid

**Common Name: Giant baboon spider**

Scientific Name: *Hysterocrates gigas*

Fast fact: These spiders use a variety of mechanisms to deter advancing predators. Often, they will adopt a threatening posture by rearing up on their hind legs and stridulating their front legs. They will also try to scare off predators by doing false strikes and bites. In addition, they often produce a hissing sound using the hairs on their legs.

**Common Name: Emperor scorpion**

Scientific Name: *Pandinus imperator*

Fast fact: The emperor scorpion is the world's largest species scorpion of species. They can grow up to 8 inches long.

## Malayan Woods

The butterflies can be found flying around in the Malayan Wood pavilions. Make sure you check out the Butterfly Lifecycle Display as you keep walking through the pavilions. The remaining insects and arachnids can be found next to this display.

## Insects

### Lepidoptera

Some of the butterfly species that can be found in the Malayan Woods include the Paper Kite (*Idea lacoune*), The Striped Albatross (*Appias libythea*), the Great eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina*), the Archduke (*Lexias pardalis*), the banded peacock (*Papilio palinurus*) and the Asian swallow tail (*Papilio lowii*).

## Arachnid

Common Name: Ornamental tree spider

Scientific Name: *Poecilotheria regalis*

Fast fact: The ornamental tree spider has yellow bands on their legs, and this colouration is used to scare off potential foes.

Common Name: Malaysian Scorpion.

Scientific Name: *Heterometrus spinifer*

Fast fact: These scorpions can deliver a painful sting that is considered similar to that of a hornet.

Common Name: Giant Katydid

Scientific Name: *Stilpnochlora couloniata*

Fast fact: These insects possess large leaf-like wings that allow them to blend in with their surrounding and avoid detection from predators.