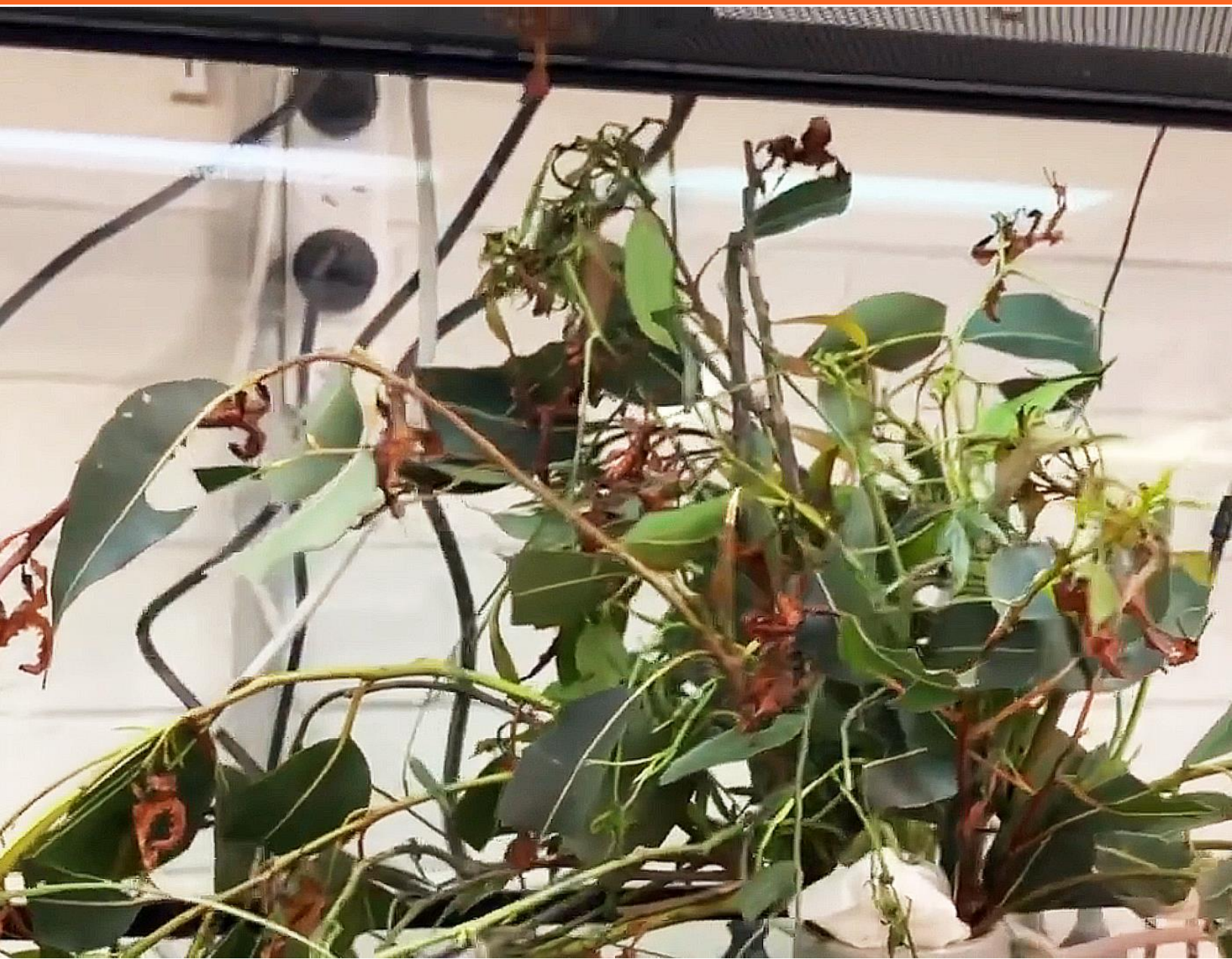


# Spiny Leaf Insect



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## INTRODUCTION

If you are considering getting a Spiny Leaf Insect as a pet or already have one but wish to enhance your Spiny Leaf Insect care knowledge, this manual will provide guidance to help ensure they enjoy a long, healthy and contented life.

The Spiny Leaf Insect is a native species of Australia, primarily inhabiting rainforests in the general regions of Eastern New South Wales and Eastern Queensland. Spiny Leaf Insects make relatively easy-to-care-for pets, suitable for both first-time owners and seasoned professionals.

However, several factors must be taken into consideration when tending to your new friend to ensure their continued well-being.

Females can grow to a maximum length of 20 cm, while their male counterparts typically reach only about 11 cm.

## HOUSING

The enclosure for your Spiny Leaf Insect should be well enclosed, with at least one side (preferably the top) covered with mesh. Full mesh enclosures are acceptable as long as the enclosure is shielded from cold breezes and drafts.



Heating the enclosure is usually unnecessary; room temperature is sufficient.

The ideal minimum size for an enclosure is 30 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm, as adult Spiny Leaf Insects can grow to be between 11 cm and 20 cm. A front door is convenient for easy access, but a removable mesh lid can also be used.

It's best to cover the entire base of your enclosure with Viper Reptile Comfort Substrate. Place well-washed young gum leaves in a small vase filled with water. Branches should extend to the top of the enclosure.

*Tip: Ensure that the vase has no open gaps at the top to prevent your young insects from falling in and drowning.*

## TEMPERATURE

The ideal temperature range for your Spiny Leaf Insect is 15-25 degrees Celsius. A heat pad can be used to maintain this temperature, but room temperature should suffice.

## TANK MAINTENANCE

Regular upkeep ensures a healthy and comfortable environment. Spot cleaning every one to two days is essential, removing waste and preventing potential egg accumulation. A thorough cleaning should be carried out at least every two weeks.

This involves refreshing the substrate and inspecting for signs of mold or fungus. While cleaning, house your insect in a temporary enclosure, taking care not to handle them directly. Maintaining proper humidity and temperature levels is vital, with room temperature typically sufficient. By adhering to a consistent maintenance routine, you can provide a safe and comfortable habitat for your Spiny Leaf Insect to thrive.

*Tip: With multiple inhabitants in an enclosure, thorough cleaning may be required more frequently.*

## DIET

As gum leaves tend to dry out, they should be removed and replaced with fresh gum leaves every 2-3 days. The leaves should be lightly sprayed (not soaked) to provide moisture for the leaves and a water source for your insects.

*Tip: Trimming the end of the fresh gum leaves can assist young insects in feeding more easily.*



## HANDLING

Stick insects can be handled, but they are delicate creatures. Allow your insect to step onto your hand to be held. You can gently guide them from behind to encourage them to step onto your hand or onto the leaves in the enclosure when returning them.

This technique may not work with adult females, as they tend to remain in one place upside down, laying eggs. Handling adult females is not recommended. If necessary, extreme care should be taken.

## HEALTH

There is little that can be done if your insect becomes ill. Chemicals can lead to illness or death in Spiny Leaf Insects.

To prevent excess moisture and the development of mold and fungus, ensure that the enclosure is well-ventilated. If fungus appears under your Spiny Leaf Insect, it can be gently removed using a damp cotton tip.