

INSECTIMO

Understanding your Stick Insect!

The **Spiny Leaf** insect is originally found in the north east of Australia. They camouflage as dead leaves in the wild to protect themselves from predators. They are very friendly insects and can not hurt you, however they must be handled with care due to their delicate nature. Spiny Leaf Insects are herbivores, usually feeding on the eucalyptus trees that they live in. Their body length can grow to a resounding 20 cm! But will usually only grow to about 11cm.



The **Crowned Stick** Insects are found in the rainforest of north Queensland. They camouflage as sticks and move from side to side when they feel threatened to look as though they are moving in the wind. They are very friendly insects and will not hurt you, but need to be handled with care due to their delicate nature. Spiny Leaf Insects are herbivores, usually feeding on the eucalyptus trees that they live in. Females can grow up to 12cm long, males are much smaller and slender than the females.



Understanding your Stick Insect!

Life span: Around one year.

Handling: They should be picked up gently, ideally by letting them walk onto your hand. They always prefer to climb up, so use this to your advantage when picking them up and putting them back onto the leaves.



Reproduction and hatching: Your stick insect will lay eggs all year round. The eggs appear as little seeds and can be inspected and collected using the Insectimo inspector and tweezers, this should be done carefully.

The eggs should be transported to a small container/foil tray, with a layer of damp paper towel or substrate. Ensure the container has a lid with poked holes. Phasmid eggs will hatch at room temperature, however not all eggs will survive. From 3 -9 months the insects will hatch and can be transported to the main enclosure very carefully. The hatchlings need to be fed on soft young leaves. Care should be made to ensure that tiny insects do not wander into and drown in the branch jar holding the leaves. This problem can easily be solved by using plastic cling-wrap around the branch jar with only the leaves sticking out.



Moulting: Moulting involves a new skin forming under the old skin, which will split along the back, while hanging from a branch the young stick insect needs to carefully pull it's body and legs out of the old skin. Once free of the old skin, the new skin will be soft and over a period of time will expand and harden. To moult successfully the insect needs to hang uninterrupted beneath a leaf or branch. This can take 10 mins to half an hour. The skin will fall to the bottom of the enclosure, and can be removed.



Caring for your Stick Insect

Lucky for you, Stick Insects are extremely easy to look after!

Enclosure: The Insectimo POD is the perfect size to house your pet stick insect. You can successfully keep up to 5 stick insects in the Insectimo POD. Place the enclosure in a spot where it gets a bit of daylight each day, but be careful it doesn't overheat. The Insectimo Light Capsule helps with heating and is a light source for darker rooms, especially during the winter months



Food: Your stick insect will simply eat the leaves you put in their enclosure, Eucalyptus (gum), Acacia (wattle), Cadagi and Guava are suitable. Ensure fresh, healthy leaves are always available to your insect, try not to let the leaves dry out, Change approximately every 3 to 5 days. Put your leaves in the branch jar with water to keep the leaves fresher for longer.

Cleaning: Your pet stick insect will produce droppings and eggs that require cleaning. It's recommended to replace substrate every 2 weeks and replace this with fresh Insectimo bed-base substrate.

Use your Insectimo Tweezers to locate the eggs. Make sure to remove all droppings and all old leaves. Rinse the Branch Jar and fill with fresh water in which the leaves are being held to make sure that the water stays fresh.



Temperature: This species will do very well at 22-26° C, and humidity consistently above 50%. To assist with humidity, mist spray the enclosure daily. Your pet insects also drink the water droplets that is sprayed so it's good that they receive the water mist daily. Use the Insectimo Hygrometer to keep track of your pet insect enclosure.