

Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: INVERTEBRATE

Scientific Name/s: *Euathlus smithi*

Common Name/s: Red-kneed tarantula
Red-legged tarantula

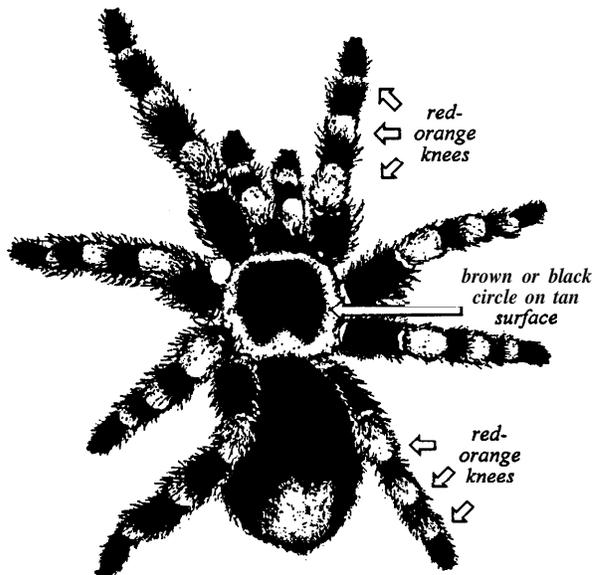
PROBLEM: Differentiating between *Euathlus (Brachyphelma) smithi* and *Euathlus (Brachyphelma) emilia*. The red-kneed tarantula (*Euathlus smithi*) is listed as CITES Appendix II. The red-legged tarantula (*Euathlus emilia*) is not listed.

DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES:

Euathlus smithi

Only patella (knee) is red or orangish.

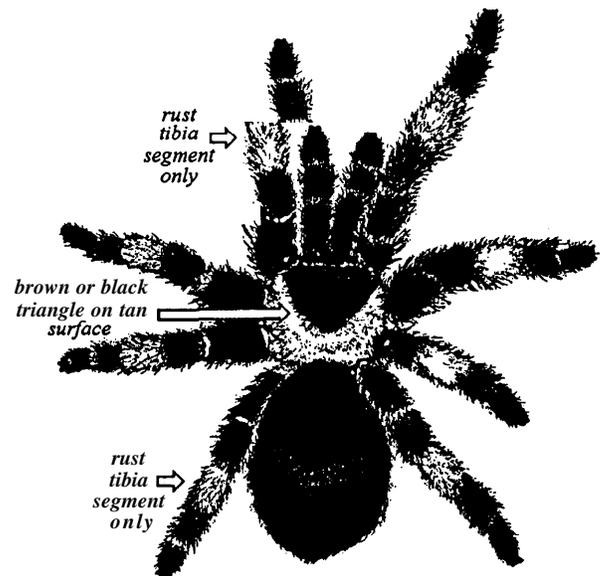
Distinctive black/brown circular spot on carapace surrounded by circle of tan



Euathlus emilia

Entire tibia (segment) is rust colored

Distinctive black/brown triangular spot on carapace



FROM: Mexico

SOME SUSPECT IMPORTERS: Watch for collectors and spider importers for the pet trade; individuals who sometimes smuggle live specimens in their personal luggage.

NOTE: If young spiders (smaller than a 50¢ piece) are encountered from a country other than Mexico, they are probably captive-bred. Any adult tarantulas encountered have probably been removed from the wild, as tarantulas are very long-lived and grow very slowly.

Submitted by: Jim Fuller, WI, Chicago, with assistance from D. Hedge & B. Herndon, Louisville Zoo. Date submitted 12/14/92

Prepared in cooperation with the National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, OR, USA

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