

# SPINY LEAF INSECT CARE SHEET

**Males:** Straight tail and wings.

**Female:** Curly tail, no wings.

## **Life expectancy**

Females live to approximately 18 months old, males only 6-8 months.



## **Housing**

Spiny leaf insects like to climb so make sure their tank or cage is large enough. It is best for the insects to have a vertical (rather than horizontal) aquarium to live in. There should be enough aeration in the tank for fresh air to enter and leave their environment.

## **Diet**

Spiny leaf insects eat eucalyptus leaves, raspberry leaves or leaves from rose bushes. Give your spiny leaf insect fresh eucalyptus leaves every 2-3 days in a vase of water. Local species of spiny leaf insects can be found in rose bushes and also in wattle. If you feed them rose bush or wattle tree leaves they will become a bright green. However, if you feed them eucalyptus they generally turn a shade of brown. Spray your leaf insects 2-3 times daily with cool water to keep them hydrated.

## **Breeding**

Female spiny leaf insects can lay eggs without the help of a male. This biological miracle is called parthenogenesis and means that all the babies born will be female. The eggs can take up to 2 years to hatch. If you've got spiny leaf insect eggs to look after, put some river sand in a container and lay the eggs gently on top. Then you spray them with water every 2-3 days.