



# AUGUST ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE



## ECO-BLITZ REGISTRATION

[bit.ly/Eco-BlitzRegistration](http://bit.ly/Eco-BlitzRegistration)



## LEARN ABOUT THE I-NATURALIST PROGRAM

[bit.ly/INaturalistProgram](http://bit.ly/INaturalistProgram)



## QUESTIONS

[maricopacountyparks.gov](https://maricopacountyparks.gov)  
[@maricopa.gov](https://twitter.com/maricopa.gov)

## DESERT BLOND TARANTULA (APHONOPELMA CHALCODES)



DESERT BLOND  
TARANTULA

The Desert Blond Tarantula is a three to five-inch-large-bodied (8-13 cm) spider and the female is usually tan in color. The male has black legs, a copper-colored cephalothorax, and a reddish abdomen. The common name "blond tarantula" refers to the carapace, which is densely covered in pale hairs and contrasts strongly with the all-dark legs and abdomen. Tarantulas are ectothermic, meaning they absorb heat from their environment. They can live up to 20-years, and become sexually mature at 8-10 years. They are reclusive and nocturnal spiders that feed on lizards, crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas, caterpillars, and parasites.

Desert Blond Tarantulas are common throughout the Southwestern United States, especially in Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern California. These spiders are usually solitary, reside in desert soil, and create burrows by digging themselves under stones or using other rodent burrows. They may live in the same burrow for decades.



Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department  
41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd. • Morristown, AZ 85342  
(602) 506-2930 • [maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net)