

## Giant Black Train Millipede

The Giant Black Train Millipede is an extremely docile animal that makes for a great pet however, as with any millipede, it can secrete a liquid that can be dangerous if put into the eyes or mouth. They are found in tropical and sub-tropical western Africa and they inhabit forests. There are over 10,000 species of millipede but the giant black train millipede is the largest. In general, these have a life span of 7 to 10 years. They can be housed communally but they will need a larger enclosure.

Other names include the African Giant Black Millipede, Giant Millipede, African Black Millipede and Tanzanian Giant Black Millipede.



## Glossary

**Reptile** – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

**Amphibian** – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

**Terrestrial** – A ground dwelling animal.

**Arboreal** – An animal that lives in trees.

**Diurnal** – Awake in the day.

**Nocturnal** – Awake during the night.

**UVB** – Ultraviolet radiation.

**Colubrid** – A family of snakes.

**Hybrid** – Offspring from animals of different species.

**Morph** – Colourations created due to genetics.

**Musk** – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

### Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

### Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

### Chessington Garden Centre

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# Giant Black Train Millipede



## Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

## Size & Housing

These millipedes will reach anywhere between 19cm and 28cm as they are the largest of species. As a general rule, it is best to house them in an enclosure that is twice as long as its body and as wide as the individual. Height is not an important factor. We recommend the Exo Terra or Komodo reptile tanks but covered aquariums are also suitable:

60 x 45 x 30 cm / 24 x 18 x 12" – Minimum for 1 Adult



## Handling

It is best to not handle millipedes even though they are docile and calm. They have their own defence mechanisms which include curling into a ball. They can secrete a liquid that can be harmful if it gets into your eyes or mouth. Some people may react to this liquid more so than others, but overall not many people react to the liquid of this species. This liquid can also stain your hands. When handling is necessary, scoop it up from beneath and remember it is best to wear thin gloves. You must also be careful that the millipede does not fall onto the fall.

## Substrate & Furnishings

It is best to use soil based substrates such as humus bricks or spider life however, you can also use natural soils such as compost as long as they do not contain fertiliser as this can be poisonous. Another option is a peat substitute mixed with orchid bark. Some millipedes will enjoy burrowing so it is recommended to have a substrate depth of 5 inches. Provide areas for it to hide under such as cork bark and damp moss. Live and artificial plants can also be used. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

## Lighting & Temperature

Overly bright lights will cause the millipede to remain hidden most of the time so this is not necessary. The millipede must have a constant temperature between 24 and 29°C. Achieve this by using a heat mat controlled by a thermostat or mat stat at all times. By using a heat bulb, it may produce excess light that makes the millipede remain hidden.

## Food & Water

Millipedes will eat vegetation as it is decomposing so will not eat food if it is fresh. Offer a variety of foods such as:

- Banana
- Tomato
- Melon
- Kale
- Watercress
- Cucumber
- Apple

They should also be provided with a calcium supplement at least three times a week or by leaving a piece of cuttlefish or cuttlebone in the enclosure. Provide a fairly large shallow dish of fresh water daily that the millipede can bathe in if needed. They require a high humidity between 75-80% and should be misted regularly to keep the enclosure moist but not soaking wet.