



# CARE SHEET

## Giant Millipede

*Archispirostreptus gigas*

Africa



- Ensure that there are dead oak/hazel or other leaves available at all times. This is one of their main foods. It also protects them from drying out.
- Also feed washed cucumber, apples or other insipid fruits.
- Keep above 18C at all times.
- Keep compost moist but not too wet; unlike insects their cuticle has no protection for desiccation.
- Occasionally dust calcium powder over the food.
- Create a gradient of heat by having one side of the vivarium heated under the soil. Also a sloped soil gradient should be maintained in the viv so they can access the bottom heat.
- Never dig a millipede up from under the soil – it might be changing skin.

- Take care that the sun never gets to shine on the vivarium as it will quickly heat up.
- Millipedes are safe to handle if on top of the soil. Some species secrete a purple foul-smelling fluid when disturbed. Their many legs mean that they can't be pulled off someone's hand. They must walk off on their own volition. Only visitors that are calm with bugs should be allowed to hold them and then only with their two palms upwards held and rested on the table.
- Experience: we have lost millipedes due to their leaf litter food not being replenished. This needs doing every two weeks. Also if they are not kept above 18C due to heater mat failure they will suffer. Please only spray soil if it is getting dry as sometimes this has become sodden on the bottom.. Judge each time.