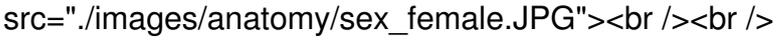


## Sexing Tarantulas by cast Exoskeleton

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There are some ways of sexing tarantulas, and the most simple and secure way to sex a tarantula is by looking at its cast exoskeleton. The only flaw in this method is that it is, of course, impossible to sex a tarantula if you don't have its cast exoskeleton.   
If the tarantula is a large sub adult or a big juvenile this process can simply be done with the naked eye. If the tarantula is a small juvenile on the other hand a magnifying glass can be of good use. When you are confident in sexing sub adult and juvenile tarantulas you can even sex the smallest juveniles and even medium to big slings by the use of a microscope. But remember that it's harder to sex smaller individuals and that it is a greater chance of being wrong the smaller the tarantula you're trying to sex is.   
**Female** If you can see a prominent and distinct structure (called spermatheca) between the first pair of book lungs, your individual is a female. The shape and size of the spermathecae vary from species to species.   
The cast exoskeleton from a female juvenile *Brachypelma baumgarteni* :    
**Male** If there is no visible structure between the first pair book lungs, just faint line your individual is a male. Sometimes young and females will have a small spermatheca so if your individual is young there are also a little chance for your individual to mature into a female. If you are unsure a magnifying glass should be of great help in such cases.   
The cast exoskeleton from a male subadult *Brachypelma albopilosum*: 