

Trichorhina tomentosa care guide:



Trichorhina tomentosa (aka Dwarf Whites or some people call them devils rice). They have one coloration and that is White. They're a great clean up crew but can be troublesome. They can breed parthenogenetically, meaning they don't need a mate. With caution these isopods will be one of the best tropical bioactive isopods you can have. They can and will out compete other isopods in their own enclosures, if you have more than one species of isopods please make sure to wash your hands after you do anything with your dwarf white enclosure. The babies are microscopic and will get onto your fingertips and if you were to go into another enclosure they can start a population just like that.

Dwarf White care:

Dwarf white isopods don't really require much care at all. They like to hide and are very small so you probably won't see them much if any for some time. You will want to have your isopod enclosure already set up for them before they get there. You do not want your isopods to sit in their shipping home for too long. If you have not already set up your enclosure, then you will want to go ahead and do that.

Enclosure Set Up:

Setting up your enclosure is easy. Depending on how many isopods you have acquired will depend on the size of your enclosure. We will start with a 10ct. A 6qt shoebox bin works perfectly. Drill about 5 to 10 holes on each side of the bin on the long sides. You can also put some breathable tape over the holes on the inside to help prevent escapees. Once that is completed, it is time for your substrate. A good mix is topsoil (organic no fertilizers), peat moss, sphagnum moss, crumbled sanitized leaves and some earthworm castings. Once you have all of that mixed nicely, you will want to put some sphagnum moss over to one side of your enclosure for your moist side. For their tiny home you can have rotting wood from your yard or some cork bark that you have. Put your cork bark on the opposite side of the sphagnum moss, this is your dry side. Add some leaf litter to give them extra areas to roam around in and they will eat the leaves as well. When you have everything set up the

way you like, you will want to get some dechlorinated water or bottled water (not tap water to be on the safe side) and spray your sphagnum moss till it is damp. Try not to over saturate it and make mud out your substrate. Adding springtails to your enclosure will benefit the isopods as well, springtails help keep the enclosure clean of isopod frass and mold if it happens. If you do not add breathable tape over your air holes, then make sure that you don't put anything close to the holes, so your isopods don't escape.

Example Picture:



Fun Part:

Adding your isopods. Most companies will ship isopods in a small 8oz deli dish with sphagnum moss inside that contains the isopods. You can add this onto your

sphagnum moss that is already in your enclosure. You will not see every isopod unless you pull them out one by one. Its best to just pull out the sphagnum moss with ease and care to not hurt any of your new friends. When you have added your new friends to their new home that is it for a few days. You will want to let them get adjusted to their new home. It is so hard to not go check on them every moment you think about them, we know we have been there. After a few days or so you can go check on your little friends by carefully lifting the cork bark and making sure everyone is doing ok. Onto actual care of Dwarf White isopods.

Care:

Dwarf White isopods need water and food and substrate to dig in. They are extremely prolific and will start to breed once they get closer to adulthood. Their temperature requirements can range from about 65F to about 85F. They do simply fine at room temperature. About every 3 days is when you will want to check in on them. Make sure your sphagnum moss is not dried out or too dry. Feel it with your fingertips to check and see how damp it is. With a mister or spray bottle mist the sphagnum moss a few times to get it damp like you did when setting up the enclosure. You may lift your cork bark to check on them to see how they are doing.

Feeding them supplemental foods like carrots and other things like dried shrimp for protein and even bee pollen and calcium. You can give them small pieces of cuddle bone for their calcium supplements. We do sell supplemental food for your isopods as well. You will want to keep leaf litter in your enclosure as this is their main diet. Once you see the leaves look like a skeleton just replace it with a fresh leaf. They will also eat snakeskin and they will also eat your fingernails if you want them to.

Humidity levels for Dwarf White isopods can range from the lower and higher end of the humidity scales. They are a hardy species that can survive a fair number of environments.

With proper ventilation. d a 50/50 moist to dry side these isopods will continue to populate your enclosure.

Other uses for Dwarf White Isopods:

Dwarf White isopods are a great cleanup crew (cuc). They can be set up in several bioactive enclosures. Along with springtails they will help keep your terrarium clean of reptile poop and debris that falls on the terrarium floor. They will even eat shed skin.