Some people think I’m creepy.

Some people think I make a great pet.

Still others think I make a tasty snack.

Over 800 species of me exist. Some species live in the ground, others live in trees. You can find me in many parts of the world, including the southwestern part of the United States.

I am an amazing creature. If I lose one of my legs, a new one will grow back. I kill my prey by injecting venom (or poison) into it. I also use my venom to liquefy my prey which I then suck up into my stomach.

People in Cambodia love to eat me! They think I taste a little like chicken. They dip me in oil, put some salt, sugar, and garlic on me, and fry me. Ugh!
Some people think I make the perfect pet. I do not make any noise and do not require a lot of work. You need only to fix up a home for me in a terrarium and give me a small container of water and leave me a few crickets to eat every week. Sometimes I may go for a few weeks without eating.

I am a tarantula.

What do I look like? I can be tan, reddish brown, or black in color. I am usually about three inches long and two to three inches tall. Some species of me are larger. I have a hairy body and legs. I have eight legs and eight eyes.

Written by Linda Anderson

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What am I?

Answer: I am a tarantula.