CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Antlion

Myrmeleon formicarius

The famous conical sand pit is only half the story: most antlion species never build one at all, and simply lurk in litter or sand as ambushers. In the pit-building genera, the larva digs by spiralli…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Myrmeleontidae
Habitat: Sandy soils, dry open forests, and grasslands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2-3 years (including larval stage)
Weight: 0.01-0.05 grams
Scientific name: Myrmeleon formicarius

Did you know?

- Despite their fearsome larval hunting strategies, adult antlions do not eat other insects and instead feed on nectar and pollen.
- The larva's habit of shuffling backwards, leaving winding trails in dry dust, gives it the American nickname "doodlebug". Antlion larvae can survive …

What I learned

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