CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Blue Morpho Butterfly

Morpho menelaus

The blue of a morpho is not a pigment, and it is not really "on" the wing at all. Each scale carries rows of microscopic ridges shaped like Christmas trees in cross-section, and light bouncing betwee…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Nymphalidae
Habitat: Tropical rainforest
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 115-130 days (from egg to adult)
Weight: 2-3 grams
Scientific name: Morpho menelaus

Did you know?

- The Blue Morpho's wings appear brown when closed, making it nearly invisible against the forest floor, but flash an electric blue when open, startlin…
- The morpho's photonic nanostructure has been directly copied by engineers for anti-counterfeiting inks, vapour sensors that change colour when a chem…

What I learned

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