CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Common Basilisk

Basiliscus basiliscus

Basiliscus basiliscus of Central American streamsides is the original "Jesus Christ lizard," and the physics of its water-running is better understood than most people assume. Each hind foot carries …

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Corytophanidae
Habitat: Tropical rainforest near freshwater rivers and streams
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 7-10 years
Weight: 200-600 grams
Scientific name: Basiliscus basiliscus

Did you know?

- The Common Basilisk's unique water-running ability is due to its rapid movement and specialized toe fringes that slap the water, creating enough lift…
- Studies of the running gait found that a basilisk generates enough upward force for its weight only for the first fraction of each step — the rest of…

What I learned

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