CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Death's-head hawkmoth

Acherontia atropos

Acherontia atropos wears a pattern on its thorax that a human brain immediately reads as a skull, and it is one of very few insects that can produce a loud audible squeak. The sound is not made by ru…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Sphingidae
Habitat: Open woodland, gardens, and farmlands
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 3 to 5 weeks (adult stage)
Weight: 1 to 3 grams
Scientific name: Acherontia atropos

Did you know?

- The Death's-head hawkmoth has been featured in popular culture, most notably in the film 'The Silence of the Lambs,' where it became an iconic symbol.
- The moth's squeak is loud enough to hear across a room, and there is credible evidence it mimics the piping sound a queen bee makes, which may briefl…

What I learned

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