CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Giant Weta

Deinacrida spp.

The giant wetas of New Zealand, genus Deinacrida, are flightless, nocturnal, cricket relatives that survived on islands with no land mammals and consequently grew heavy rather than fast. The wetapung…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Anostostomatidae
Habitat: Forest, grassland, and shrubland, primarily on predator-free offshore islands
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 1-2 years
Weight: 20–71 grams
Scientific name: Deinacrida spp.

Did you know?

- The heaviest recorded giant weta weighed 71 grams—more than a common house sparrow.
- The Maori name wetapunga is often glossed as "god of ugly things", a reference to Punga, ancestor of sharks and lizards. Giant wetas cannot jump well…

What I learned

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