CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Leafcutter Ant

Atta cephalotes

Leafcutter ants do not eat the leaves they carry. They are farmers: the cut fragments are hauled underground, cleaned, chewed to a pulp and used as compost to grow a fungus that the colony cultivates…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Formicidae
Habitat: Tropical rainforest
Diet: Herbivore (fungus farmer)
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: Several months to 2 years (workers); up to 7 years (queen)
Weight: 0.01–0.05 grams
Scientific name: Atta cephalotes

Did you know?

- Leafcutter ant colonies can contain more than 8 million individuals, making them one of the largest and most complex animal societies on Earth.
- Leafcutter ants do not eat leaves — they use them as compost to farm an edible fungus underground. They were practising agriculture tens of millions …

What I learned

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