CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Mata Mata Turtle

Chelus fimbriata

Chelus fimbriata of the Amazon and Orinoco basins does not chase, chew or bite. It is a suction feeder, and it is built entirely for the trick: it lies motionless on the bottom of a shallow, tannin-s…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Chelidae
Habitat: Slow-moving freshwater rivers, streams, and swamps
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 15-30 years
Weight: 7-15 kg
Scientific name: Chelus fimbriata

Did you know?

- Despite its bizarre appearance, the Mata Mata Turtle is completely harmless and rarely leaves the water except for nesting.
- The mata mata's suction strike is so fast that high-speed video is needed to see it, and prey are drawn in before they can react. Genetic work publis…

What I learned

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