CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Mongolian Gerbil

Meriones unguiculatus

Meriones unguiculatus is a desert-adapted rodent from the steppes of Mongolia, northern China and adjacent Russia, and its physiology is built around never drinking. It extracts almost all the water …

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Muridae
Habitat: Desert and grassland
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2–4 years
Weight: 60–130 grams
Scientific name: Meriones unguiculatus

Did you know?

- Despite being called 'desert rats' in some regions, Mongolian gerbils are not true rats and belong to a distinct subfamily of rodents.
- Gerbils dig compulsively, and a gerbil in a bare tank will corner-dig for hours; given deep bedding they excavate real tunnel systems with multiple e…

What I learned

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