CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Paper Nautilus

Argonauta argo

The argonaut is not a nautilus and its "shell" is not a shell in the molluscan sense. Argonauta is an octopus, and only the female builds the paper-thin white case: she secretes it not from the mantl…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Argonautidae
Habitat: Open ocean (pelagic zone)
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-2 years
Weight: Up to 100 g
Scientific name: Argonauta argo

Did you know?

- Unlike true nautiluses, the Paper Nautilus is actually an octopus, not a close relative of the shelled nautiloids.
- Georg Cuvier examined the detached hectocotylus and named it as a parasitic worm genus, Hectocotylus, before anyone realised it was a male octopus's …

What I learned

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