CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Queen Alexandra's Birdwing Caterpillar

Ornithoptera alexandrae

Queen Alexandra's birdwing caterpillar is the remarkable larval stage of the world's largest butterfly, native exclusively to Papua New Guinea. The caterpillar is dark brown to black in color, adorne…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Papilionidae
Habitat: Lowland rainforest
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Endangered
Lifespan: 2-3 months (larval stage)
Weight: Up to 8 grams
Scientific name: Ornithoptera alexandrae

Did you know?

- The caterpillar's striking coloration is a warning to predators that it is poisonous, thanks to chemicals ingested from its host plants.
- Queen Alexandra's birdwing caterpillars are among the largest butterfly larvae in the world, sometimes reaching lengths of up to 12 centimeters. They…

What I learned

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