CREATURE ATLAS

# Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



# Scarlet caterpillar club

*Cordyceps militaris*

The scarlet caterpillar club is a striking parasitic fungus known for its vivid orange-red, club-shaped fruiting bodies. It primarily infects the pupae or larvae of moths and butterflies, emerging fr…

## Quick facts

**Classification:** Invertebrate
**Family:** Cordycipitaceae
**Habitat:** Deciduous and mixed forests
**Diet:** Parasitic
**Conservation status:** Least Concern
**Lifespan:** 1-3 months (fruiting body stage)
**Weight:** Less than 1 gram
**Scientific name:** Cordyceps militaris

## Did you know?

- Despite being a fungus, the scarlet caterpillar club spends much of its lifecycle hidden inside insect larvae or pupae before bursting forth as a bri…
- This fungus is famous for its parasitic relationship with insects, often dramatically emerging from the mummified bodies of its hosts. It has been us…

## What I learned

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