CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Velvet Worm

Peripatus juliformis

Velvet worms (phylum Onychophora) are soft, caterpillar-like predators of damp tropical and temperate forest litter, and they are their own phylum, sister to the arthropods, with a body plan that has…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Peripatidae
Habitat: Tropical rainforest leaf litter and rotting logs
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 4-7 years
Weight: 2-5 grams
Scientific name: Peripatus juliformis

Did you know?

- Peripatus and other velvet worms are among the few animals that have changed very little since the Cambrian period, making them important for studyin…
- The velvet worm's slime jets whip from side to side without any muscle doing the whipping; the nozzle simply becomes unstable at high flow, and the a…

What I learned

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