CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Water Opossum

Chironectes minimus

The water opossum or yapok (Chironectes minimus) is the only truly semiaquatic marsupial in the world, and it lives along clear forest streams from southern Mexico to Argentina. Its adaptations are e…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Didelphidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and streams in tropical and subtropical forests
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 3-4 years
Weight: 400–800 grams
Scientific name: Chironectes minimus

Did you know?

- The Yapok is the only marsupial in the world with both webbed feet and a waterproof pouch, specially adapted for an aquatic lifestyle.
- The female's pouch seals watertight with a ring of muscle and an oily secretion, so she can dive with her young inside and they stay dry. Males have …

What I learned

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