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ABOUT THE COVER

These gold-dust day geckos (Phelsuma laticauda) are native to the island of Madagascar and have been introduced to other islands in the Indian Ocean and islands of the South Pacific, including the Hawaiian Islands. Geckos are reptiles in the order Squamata and infraorder Gekkota. Geckos typically have eyes with rounded pupils and lack eyelids. Their eyes are covered by transparent membranes that they clean by licking with their long tongues. Geckos are also characterized by chirping vocalizations used in social interactions. They have adhesive toe pads. These toe pads have tiny spatula-shaped setae that generate van der Waals interactions (forces) that allow them to cling to surfaces as smooth as glass. Like all day geckos, the gold-dust day gecko is day active or diurnal. (Most geckos are night active or nocturnal.) Adults are 15 – 22 cm in length. They live in tropical forests where they feed on insects and other invertebrates, soft fruit, pollen, and nectar. Females often congregate on palm flowers and banana flowers (shown here). Males are quite territorial, aggressive, and more solitary. Females lay shelled eggs in clutches of two eggs each, and they have at least two reproductive periods during the year. Populations of the gold-dust day gecko are quite stable in spite of being collected and reared for the pet industry. Unlike introductions of many other species into non-native habitats, introductions of this species have resulted in few adverse environmental impacts.
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Inquiry Into Life

Exploring Honors Biology from a Human Perspective

Inquiry into Life ©2017 offers a unique approach to biology by explaining basic biological concepts and processes with a human emphasis, making biology relevant and understandable to students. Author Dr. Sylvia Mader’s teaching system motivates students to understand and appreciate the wonders of biology. Coupled with a modern digital approach, this traditional learning system is designed to both engage and encourage today’s student.

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Zoology ©2016 by Stephen Miller and John Harley offers students an introductory text that is manageable in size and adaptable to a variety of course formats. Zoology emphasizes ecological and evolutionary concepts and helps students understand the process of science through elements of chapter organization and boxed readings. The ecological perspective is stressed throughout the text. Human population and endangered species statistics have been updated. Ecological problems are discussed including an assessment of eight critical environmental processes: biodiversity loss, nitrogen cycling, phosphorus cycling, climate change, ocean acidification, land and freshwater use, and ozone depletion.
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