

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · WORKSHEET

Crested Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

Correlophus ciliatus

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Answer each question in complete sentences, using the matching Crested Gecko Species Fact Sheet as your reference. An answer key follows on the last page.

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the crested gecko.
2. The crested gecko was first described in 1866. What happened to the species between then and 1994, and why is this significant to conservation biology?
3. Describe how a crested gecko's toe pads let it climb smooth surfaces such as glass.
4. What makes the crested gecko's tail unusual compared to most other geckos, including the leopard gecko?
5. What is the crested gecko's current IUCN Red List conservation status, and name one factor contributing to it.
6. Is the crested gecko primarily an insectivore, herbivore, or omnivore? Support your answer with evidence from its diet.

GECKODAILY CLASSROOM RESOURCES · ANSWER KEY

Crested Gecko - Adaptations & Physiology

1. Give the full scientific (binomial) name of the crested gecko.

Correlophus ciliatus.

2. The crested gecko was first described in 1866. What happened to the species between then and 1994, and why is this significant to conservation biology?

It was not documented again for over a century and was presumed extinct, then rediscovered on the Isle of Pines in 1994. This makes it a well-known example of a 'Lazarus species' - one rediscovered after being thought extinct.

3. Describe how a crested gecko's toe pads let it climb smooth surfaces such as glass.

Rows of microscopic hair-like structures called setae under each toe use weak intermolecular (van der Waals) forces to grip the surface, rather than suction, glue, or hooks.

4. What makes the crested gecko's tail unusual compared to most other geckos, including the leopard gecko?

Once lost through autotomy, a crested gecko's tail does not grow back - unlike leopard geckos and many other lizards, which regenerate a replacement tail.

5. What is the crested gecko's current IUCN Red List conservation status, and name one factor contributing to it.

Vulnerable. Contributing factors include a naturally limited native range (southern New Caledonia) and threats such as habitat loss and introduced predators/competitors.

6. Is the crested gecko primarily an insectivore, herbivore, or omnivore? Support your answer with evidence from its diet.

Omnivore - its diet includes both plant material (ripe fruit and nectar) and animal matter (insects).