

PANTHER CHAMELEON

Scientific Name: *Chamaeleo pardalis*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata Sauria

Physical Adaptations:

- Colors vary greatly from one another. The colors include all the colors of the rainbow. Females usually turn brown and gray
- The head has a hard shaped helmet that helps to protect it
- Their eyes extend out of their head and are covered with scaly skin. Both eyes turn on their own in different directions at the same time

Behavioral Adaptations:

- Their main defense mechanism is visual clues
- Their tongue is very special which helps them to catch their food. It is very long and has a sticky tip. They catch their prey the same way a frog does
- When the chameleon wants to mate he bobs his head up and down and from side to side. If a female wants to mate she will display dull colors, and if she does not want to mate, her colors will warn the male to stay away

Habitat/Biome:

lowlands and forest areas where it is warm and humid. They like to be off the ground, up in the trees and bushes

Distribution:

Northern and coastal areas of Madagascar

Status: IUCN pop. trend: unknown

Special Notes:

IUCN Category: Not listed

CITES Listing: Appendix II

Threats Include:

Snakes, birds such as shrikes, coucals and horn-bills



Primary Diet:

Wild: insects, small birds, and other reptiles
CARNIVORE

Fun Facts:

- Are called panther because they are very aggressive
- The different color patterns of Panther Chameleon are commonly referred to as "locals", which are named after the geographical location in which they are found
- Though males fight with other males, they would rather run and hide then attack humans or predators

Additional Notes:

Length: Males 12-17" - Females 7-9 "

Gestation/Incubation: about 240 days

Clutch: 10-40 eggs per clutch

Life Span: 5 to 7 years in captivity

Information Sources (2011)

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Animal Facts

www.waza.org

whozoo.org (Fort Worth Zoo)