

Date: Thursday 4th February 2021

Title: WILF: All Reading GEMS
Brookesia nana

Self-
Assessment
☹️ 😐 😊

Teacher
assessment

SA:

Summary support: Choose key words and details to create a summary about what you have read so far

Question support: can you ask a character a question? Does your question require inference or deduction skills?

Question:

New species of tiny chameleon discovered in Madagascar

3 February 2021

Scientists have discovered a new species of chameleon in Madagascar, which could be the smallest in the world!

The new species is called the *Brookesia nana*, and is about the size of a sunflower seed. The chameleons were discovered by a team of



international scientists on a research trip to the northern rainforests of Madagascar. So far scientists have only found two of the *Brookesia nana* in the wild, one male and one female, and are now studying them to find out why they evolved to be so tiny.



From observing the *Brookesia nana*, researchers found that it hunts for food on the rainforest floor using its long sticky tongue to catch mites, and hides from predators at night in blades of grass. "We are constantly identifying new species from Madagascar and describing them," said Mark Scherz, an expert in reptiles who helped to co-write the report.

"Even among the beautiful and charismatic chameleons, there is a huge amount that we still have to learn" he said.

The male *Brookesia nana* has a body length of just 13.5 mm, and a total length of 22mm (including its tail) making it the smallest known male of around 11,500 known species of non-avian reptiles.

However, researchers are worried about the threat of deforestation to the rainforests where the *Brookesia nana* live, as the land is being cleared for farming.

In their reports the scientists recommended that the chameleon be listed as critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species to help protect it, and its habitat.

The researchers who discovered the tiny chameleons published their findings in the *Scientific Reports* journal.

Questions:

1. Identify a word in the text that is closest in meaning to tiny (2a define 1 mark)
2. **Find** and **copy** a word that shows how rare the chameleon is (2b retrieve 1 mark)
3. Where in Madagascar were the chameleons discovered? (2b retrieve 1 mark)
 - a. In the west
 - b. In the south
 - c. In the north
 - d. In the east
4. Why do you think the chameleon has a long sticky tongue? (2d infer 1 mark)
5. Name a major threat to the *Brookesia nana* (2b retrieve 1 mark)
6. What are the benefits to listing the chameleon as endangered? (2d infer 2 marks)
7. In which journal has the report been published? (2b retrieve 1 mark)