



A GREAT BIG WORLD

By: Brian Newyear



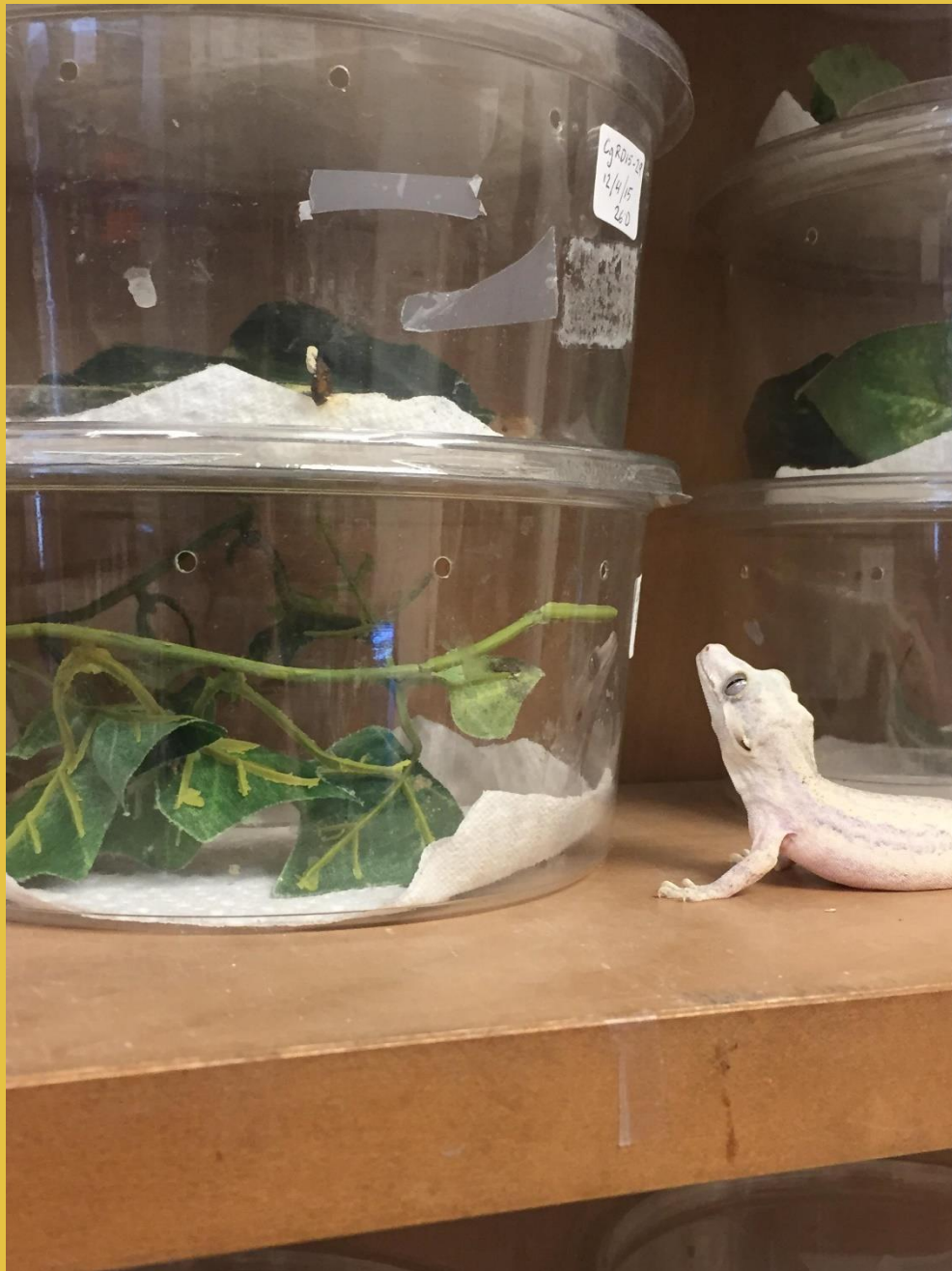
Hi! My name is Gary the Gecko. I am a Gargoyle Gecko from the southern islands of Caledonia where I grew up surrounded by forestry and shrubs. I love a humid environment with a good amount of heat. I've been living in the herpetology lab at BGSU for the past couple months and haven't gotten out much. It's time to go explore and see what's out there!



Well would you look at this - it's a Crested Gecko!

I had no idea they lived right next door.

I wonder if Craig the Crested Gecko wants to come exploring!



"Hey Craig, are you awake? I know we are nocturnal, but I just couldn't wait to go exploring!"

"Go away Gary, I am sleeping."
Craig mumbled.

"Alright, but you will be missing out."



Crikey! I weigh 17 grams.

A full grown gecko weighs around 60 grams.

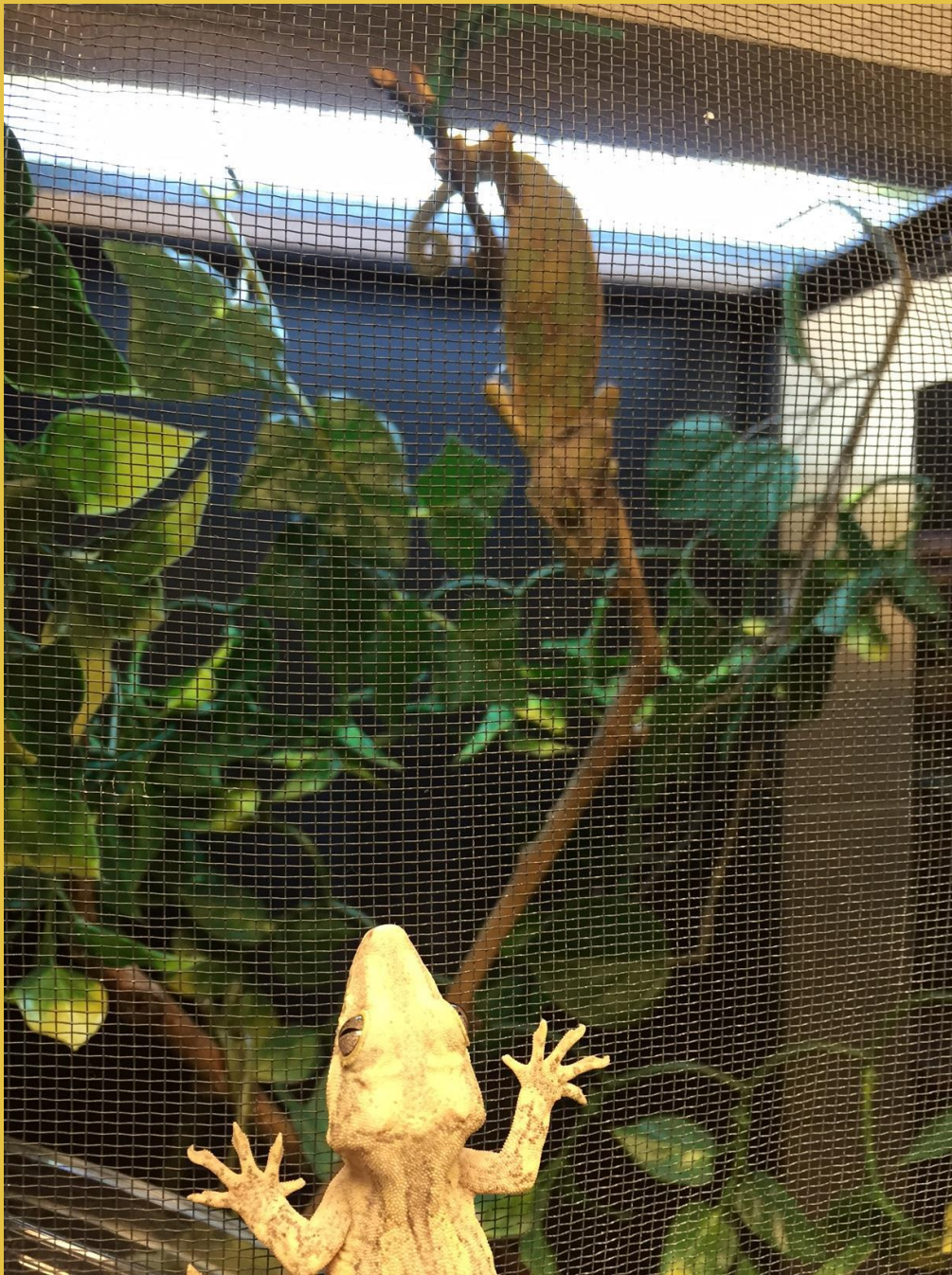
I'm starting to get big.

I have to keep eating my fruit diet to grow up like my parents.



Woah... That's a Tawain Beauty Snake. They can grow up to 7ft long!

He eats mice and rats, but I sure wouldn't want to mess with him!



That's a Chameleon! Found in all sorts of warm habitats ranging from the rain forest to the desert.

Their eyes move independently of each other, and they have very long tongues which they use to catch their prey.

They prefer to eat small insects and do so by coiling their tongues and whipping them at their prey.



These are Frilled Dragons, known for the frill around their necks that expands to warn predators.

They live in grassland, open forests, and bush land.

Their food of choice includes insects, bird eggs, and small mammals.

They can live up to 7 years and grow as big as 24 inches long!



Nice, a Bearded Dragon! The name "bearded dragon" comes from the black that appears under their neck when they feel threatened. It is used to ward off predators.

They originate from Australia. Now that's quite a way from home, mate!

Their diet consists of insects, fruits, and vegetables.



Woah, a Poison Dart Frog!
Their toxin was used by
Amerindians to make poison
dart arrows!

They originate from central
and south America where
they live in humid
environments like the
tropical rain forest.

They feast on very small
insects like ants, termites,
and mites.



I had no idea I was right next to so many cool animals!

Getting out and seeing everyone was good and all, but I've had enough exploring for one day.

It's time to cozy up under my leaves and take a nice long nap!