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HIGHLIGHTS OF GECKOS—TAILS TO TOEPADS

See exhibit of live geckos May 30 – Sept. 7, 2009

PHILADELPHIA—"Geckos—Tails to Toepads" is an interactive exhibit that introduces visitors to the remarkable diversity and adaptability of these charismatic lizards. More than 75 live geckos representing 18 species will be on display at The Academy of Natural Sciences from May 30 through Sept. 7. Here are some of the geckos visitors will meet:

Giant Day Gecko

This is America's most famous gecko, thanks to its starring role as a spokes-creature for an insurance company. This striking gecko sports emerald-green skin with crimson-red highlights.

Giant Frog-Eyed Gecko

With large, overlapping scales, this gecko has a great defense mechanism. By rubbing its tail scales together, it produces a sawing sound that scares away predators.

New Caledonian Gecko

The world's heavyweight gecko, this one grows up to 16 inches long. Like most geckos, it eats insects, but also will occasionally eat fruit. In the wild, it will even eat other geckos.

Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko

This lizard gives new meaning to the word "camouflage." Textured skin, a flattened body and jagged outlines make it nearly disappear among leaves and branches.

Chinese Cave Gecko

This secretive gecko lives in the mouths of caves and eats cockroaches. Scientists believe some of these geckos catch insects that are attracted to accumulations of bat guano deeper in the cave.

Tokay Gecko

When fighting with other geckos, this gecko emits a startling cry that sounds like its name (toe KAY). It will even chase an enemy and deliver a surprisingly painful bite.

"Geckos—Tails to Toepads" was created by *Peeling Productions* at Clyde Peeling's REPTILAND in Allenwood, Pa. The exhibit is **free** with museum admission.

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"