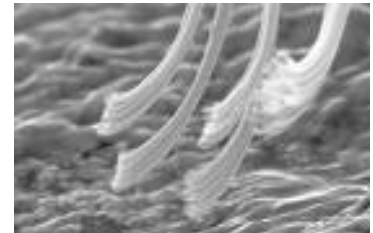
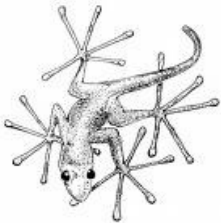


THE GECKO



A gecko's toes are divided into small sections known as **lamellae**, which are composed of overlapping layers.

On each of the lamellae, there are thousands of tiny, hair-like structures known as **setae**, which give the gecko's foot its delicate texture.

Attached to the end of each of the setae are hundreds of tiny projections that form spatula-shaped structures known as **spatulae**.

All of these intricate structures—the lamellae, the setae, and the spatulae—work together to allow the gecko to move up, down, left, or right with incredible speed and agility. It can stick to practically any surface (including glass!), and even can hang by a single foot.

The gecko does not stick to things by using glue, suction cups, or static electricity. Instead, it uses powerful-yet-invisible intermolecular attractions known as “**van der Waals forces**.”