



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# Soil biodiversity: the hidden world beneath our feet

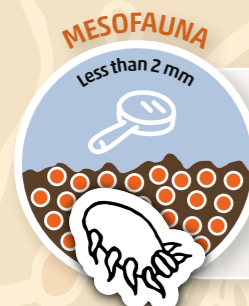
## Soil Community



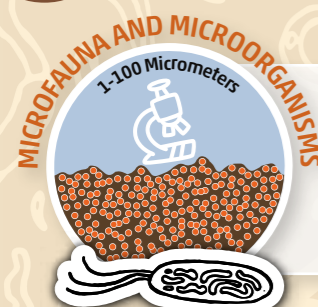
**MEGFAUNA**  
Toads, moles, beavers, rabbits and badgers are the principal agents of soil turnover and distribution.



**MACROFAUNA**  
Several centimeters  
Earthworms, termites, ants, millipedes and woodlice help with soil drainage and aeration.



**MESOFAUNA**  
Less than 2 mm  
Microscopic invertebrates such as collembolans, diplura, proturans, nematodes, mites and tardigrades are biological regulators of decomposition.



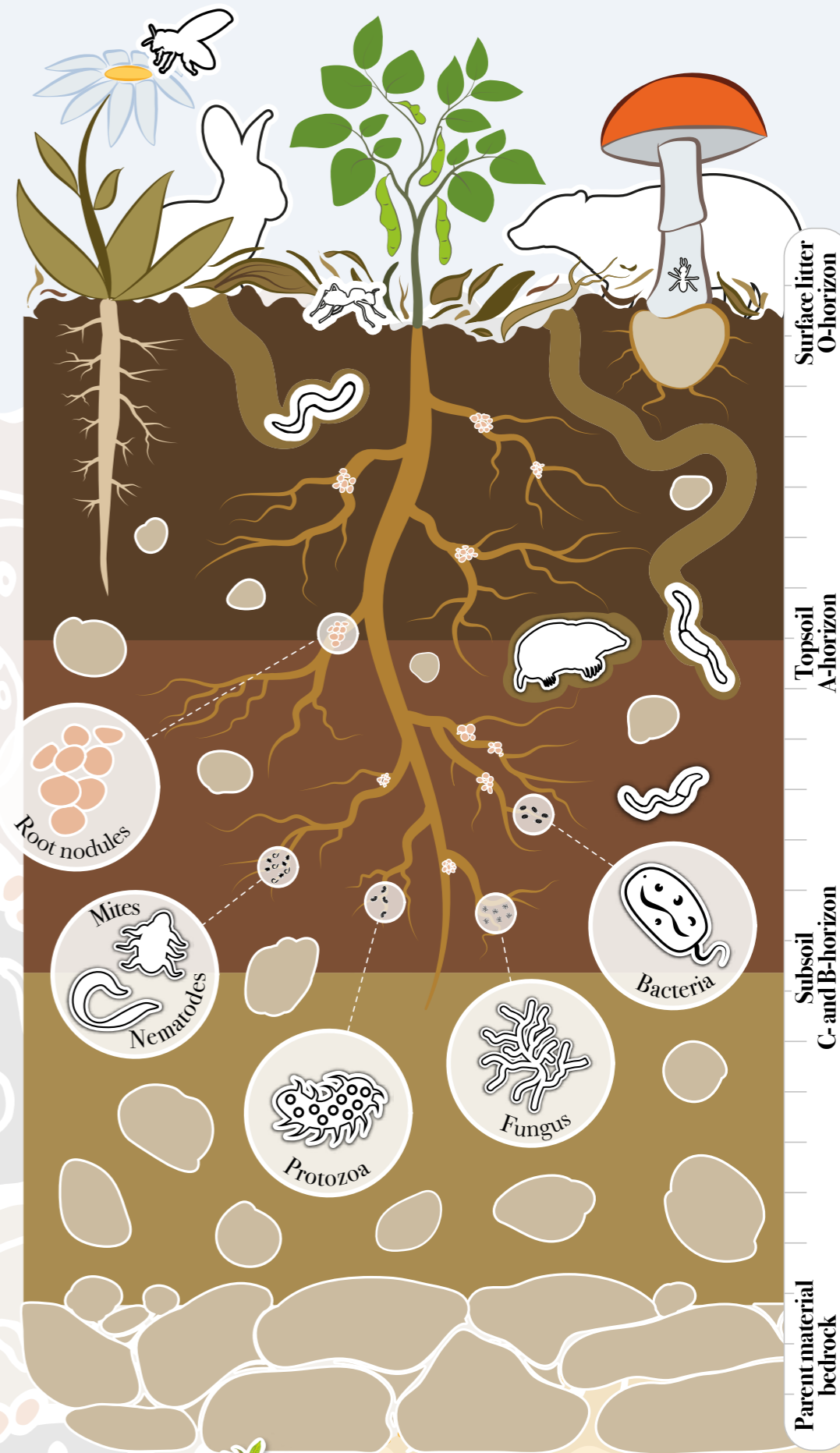
**MICROFAUNA AND MICROORGANISMS**  
1-100 Micrometers  
Bacteria, protozoans, fungi and nematodes are the smallest and most numerous organisms in the soil. They are responsible for biogeochemical processes.

Plants nurture a whole world of creatures in the soil, that in return feed and protect the plants.

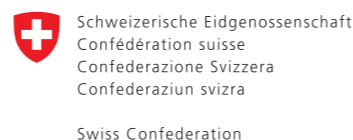
This diverse community of living organisms keeps the soil healthy and fertile.

This vast world constitutes soil biodiversity and determines the main biogeochemical processes that make

**life possible on Earth.**



Thanks to the financial support of



**KEEP SOIL ALIVE  
PROTECT SOIL  
BIODIVERSITY**

