Soil biodiversity: the hidden world beneath our feet

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.

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

Earthworms, termites, ants, millipedes and woodlice help with soil drainage and aeration.

Microscopic invertebrates such as collembolans, diplura, proturans, nematodes, mites and tardigrades are biological regulators of decomposition.

Bacteria, protozoans, fungi and nematodes are the smallest and most numerous organisms in the soil. They are responsible for biogeochemical processes.

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