



EARTHWORMS

Earthworms are soft, thin invertebrates (no backbone) and are probably the most well known of the creatures that live in the soil. They are major decomposers of dead and decomposing organic matter and derive their nutrition from the bacteria and fungi. They fragment organic matter and make major contributions to recycling the nutrients.

Earthworms occur in most temperate and many tropical soil type.

There are more than 7,000 recorded species.

They range in length from 1 – 40 cm and are found at all depths in the soil.

In terms of biomass and overall activity, earthworms dominate the world of soil invertebrates, including arthropods.



Earthworms perform several beneficial functions to soil. They dramatically improve soil structure, water movement, nutrient dynamics and plant growth. Their presence is usually an indicator of a healthy system.