Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Soil biodiversity: the hidden world beneath our feet

Soil Community

MEGAFAUNA

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

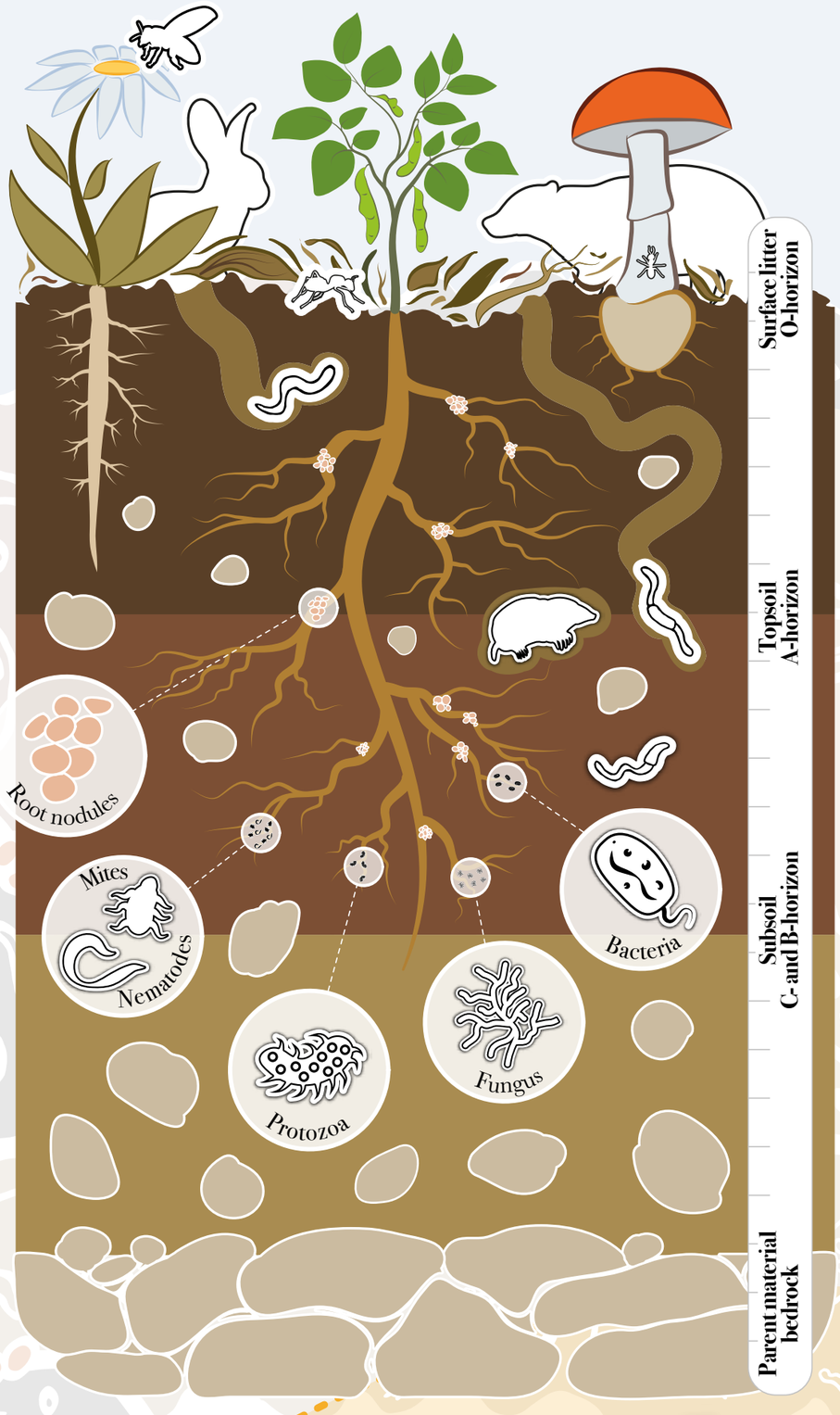
1-100 Micrometers

Bacteria, **protozoans**, **fungi** and **nematodes** are the smallest and most numerous organisms in the soil. That are responsible of 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

European Commission

Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands

Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

KEEP SOIL ALIVE
PROTECT SOIL BIODIVERSITY

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP