Earthworms
our partners for resilient, living soil in the mountains

Identification sheets

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Identification sheets

- *Lumbricus terrestris*
- *Aporrectodea nocturna*
- *Aporrectodea chlorotica*
- *Dendrobaena octaedra*
- *Octodrilus juvyi*
- *Aporrectodea rosea*
- *Octolasium cyaneum*
- *Aporrectodea longa*
- *Eisenia fetida*
- *Lumbricus rubellus*
**Lumbricus terrestris**

### Identity card

- **Colour**: reddish purple pigmentation
- **Length**: 130 to 250 mm
- **Width**: 7 to 9 mm
- **Weight**: 5 to 15 g
- **Habitat**: deciduous forests, pastures and crops
- **Ecological category**: epi-anecic

### Morphological characteristics

- **Tanylobic pro stomium**
- **Paired bristles**
- **Clitellum on segments 32 to 37**

### Ecological characteristics

The species is relatively frequent and spread throughout the country. It is relatively unaffected by the topography of the land and plays a key role in the transfer of materials in the top soil horizons. It is found in a diverse range of environments from pastures and low-intensity crops to mountain forests.
Aporrectodea nocturna

Identity card

**Colour:** brownish-black iridescent pigmentation  
**Length:** 90 to 180 mm  
**Width:** 4 to 5 mm  
**Weight:** 1.9 to 3 g  
**Habitat:** deciduous forests, pastures and crops  
**Ecological category:** anecic

Morphological characteristics

Ecological characteristics

The species is fairly polymorphous and likes environments with low levels of organic material. Fairly characteristic of healthy soil, this anecic species is relatively frequent in good numbers in natural environments and is fairly unaffected by land topography. It plays a particularly important role in ecosystems due to its marked excavating behaviour.
Aporrectodea chlorotica

Identity card

**Colour**: greenish-brown pigmentation  
**Length**: 50 to 80 mm  
**Width**: 3 to 7 mm  
**Weight**: 500 to 700 mg  
**Habitat**: forests and environments with low levels of organic material  
**Ecological category**: endogeic

Morphological characteristics

- Epilobic prostomium
- Paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 29 to 37

Ecological characteristics

The species is neutrophilic and relatively unaffected by the topography of the land. It can be found in particular in rather damp areas with low levels of organic material.
**Dendrobaena octaedra**

**Identity card**

**Colour:** reddish-purple iridescent pigmentation  
**Length:** 30 to 60 mm  
**Width:** 1 to 2.5 mm  
**Weight:** 80 to 100 mg  
**Habitat:** mixed forests at high altitude. Very resistant to the cold  
**Ecological category:** epigeic

**Morphological characteristics**

- Epilobic prostomium
- Unpaired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 29 - I/n 34

**Ecological characteristics**

The species is riparian, relatively unaffected by the topography of the land and found rather in forests. Surface taxon, found in particular in environments with moderate organic material.
Octodrilus juvyi

Identity card

**Colour:** red-brown pigmentation  
**Length:** 30 to 60 mm  
**Width:** 1 to 3 mm  
**Weight:** 80 to 100 mg  
**Habitat:** mixed forests at high altitude and screes  
**Ecological category:** epigeic

Morphological characteristics

- Epilobic prostomium
- Largely paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 29 to 35

Ecological characteristics

The species was discovered in 2006 by Bernard Juvy (Cemagref) in the Chartreuse mountain range. This riparian species is found in the superficial structures of scree areas and rather cool forest sites at high altitude.
Aporrectodea rosea

Identity card

**Colour:** pinkish pigmentation  
**Length:** 40 to 70 mm  
**Width:** 2 to 3 mm  
**Weight:** 150 to 280 mg  
**Habitat:** forests and pastures  
**Ecological category:** endogeic

**Morphological characteristics**

- Epilobic prostomium
- Paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 26 to 32

**Ecological characteristics**

The species is distributed over a vast area in Europe. It is relatively unaffected by the topography of the land. The species is found in many forest and pasture ecosystems.
Octolasium cyaneum

Identity card

**Colour:** no skin pigmentation  
**Length:** 80 to 140 mm  
**Width:** 6 to 8 mm  
**Weight:** 1500 to 2500 mg  
**Habitat:** cool mountain regions  
**Ecological category:** epi-endogeic

Morphological characteristics

- **Epilobic prostomium**
- **Unpaired bristles behind the clitellum only**
- **Clitellum on segments 26 to 32**

Ecological characteristics

The species is frequent and typical of wet, healthy soil with little organic material. The separate implantation of the bristles and its lack of pigmentation are characteristic features of the species which facilitate its identification.
**Aporrectodea longa**

**Identity card**

**Colour:** grey-black iridescent pigmentation  
**Length:** 130 to 170 mm  
**Width:** 6 to 8 mm  
**Weight:** 1200 to 3800 mg  
**Habitat:** widely present in different environments  
**Ecological category:** anecic

**Morphological characteristics**

- Epilobic prostomium
- Paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 28 to 35

**Ecological characteristics**

The species is very frequent in many environments and is relatively unaffected by the topography of the land. It plays an important role in the transfer of matter in the different soil horizons.
**Eisenia fetida**

**Identity card**

- **Colour:** striped reddish-purple pigmentation
- **Length:** 50 to 120 mm
- **Width:** 2 to 4 mm
- **Weight:** 200 to 600 mg
- **Habitat:** compost, manure
- **Ecological category:** epigeic

**Morphological characteristics**

- Epilobic prostomium
- Paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 26 to 32

**Ecological characteristics**

The species is fairly rare in the natural environment. It is found rather in compost and other organic waste. However, it can sometimes be spotted between the bark and sapwood of dead trees.
Lumbricus rubellus

Identity card

**Colour:** dark red pigmentation  
**Length:** 60 to 130 mm  
**Width:** 2 to 2.5 mm  
**Weight:** 450 to 2500 mg  
**Habitat:** wooded environments  
**Ecological category:** epigeic

Morphological characteristics

- Epilobic prostomium
- Paired bristles
- Clitellum on segments 26 to 32

Ecological characteristics

The species is relatively unaffected by the topography of the land and is well-represented in healthy wooded environments. This hygrophilous species can usually be found in fairly organic environments.