

Living Armadillo Diversity

There are 8 genera and 20 species of living armadillos. Most live in South America, but a few occur in Central America, and one, the nine-banded armadillo, is found in the United States.



Chaetophractus – Hairy Armadillos.

Three species. These animals often feed on maggots and grubs associated with the carcasses of large animals.



Euphractus sexcinctus – Six-banded

Armadillo. Sometimes abundant around plantations, it can cause damage by eating sprouting corn and other crops.



Zaedyus pichiy – Pichi Armadillo. The Pichi hibernates during the winter. Its flesh is considered a delicacy and is highly prized as food. In some areas the Pichi is a house pet.



Priodontes maximus – Giant Armadillo.

The largest living armadillo, it can weigh as much as 130 pounds. An agile animal, it can balance on its tail and hind legs with its front legs off the ground.