

Living Armadillo Diversity

Although similar in basic plan, armadillos vary greatly in the amount of the body protected by the shell, the flexibility of the shell and the amount of hair each species has.



Cabassous – Naked-tailed Armadillos. Four species. Closely related to the Giant Armadillo, it has large powerful front claws for digging and for cutting roots. The shell has from 10 to 13 moveable bands.



Tolypeutes – Three-banded Armadillos. Two species. This is the only armadillo which can roll itself in a tight ball for protection from predators.



Dasypus – Long-nosed Armadillos. Six species. The Nine-banded Armadillo is the only species found in the US, occurring as far north as Missouri, as far west as Texas and as far east as Florida.



Chlamyphorus – Fairy Armadillos. Two species. The smallest armadillo known, either living or extinct. Adults are less than 6 inches in length. The shell is attached only to the spine.