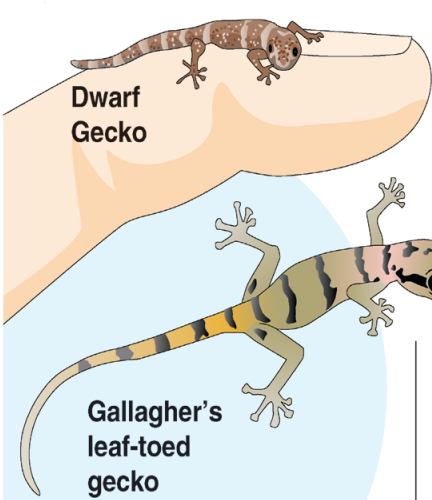


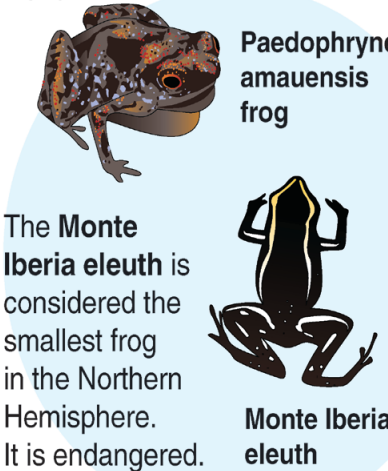


Reptiles

Discovered in 2001, the **Jaragua sphaero** of South America is the smallest reptile on Earth—it is less than 0.8 inches (2.0 cm) in length. There are about 60 species of dwarf geckos.

Frogs

Discovered in 2009 on Papua New Guinea, the **Paedophryne amauensis frog** is typically about 0.3 inches (7.7 mm) long. It is the smallest **vertebrate** (backboned animal) in the world.



Insects

At just 0.02 to 0.04 inches (0.50 to 1.00 mm) long, fairyflies—also known as fairy wasps—are the world's smallest known insect. There are more than 1,400 species of this parasitic wasp. They eat the eggs of other insects.

Spiders

The smallest fully grown spider in the world is the male **Patu digua** from Borneo, with a body length of just 0.02 inches (0.37 mm)—smaller than the head of a pin!

Seahorse

Denise's pygmy seahorse lives among the coral reefs of the western Pacific at depths of 40 feet to 300 feet (12 to 91.0 m). It stands about 0.5 inch (1.3 cm) tall and is one of the best-camouflaged fishes in the oceans.

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WORLD'S SMALLEST CREATURES

If you don't count bacteria, the smallest animal in the world would be an amoeba protozoa (a single-celled organism), but the animals on this page don't require a microscope to see. They range from the size of a pinhead to ankle high. Miniature creatures may have evolved as a way of surviving when resources were scarce.

Smallest Mammal

The **Bumblebee bat** and the **Etruscan pygmy shrew** are the smallest mammals in the world. The Bumblebee bat, also known as Kitti's hog-nosed bat, is found in Thailand and Myanmar. It is critically endangered. The bat measures between 0.8 inch and 1.2 inches (2.0 and 3.0 cm) in length.



The shrew measures about 1.4 inches (3.5 cm).



American shrew mole is the smallest of North American moles at 2.8 inches (7.1 cm) long.

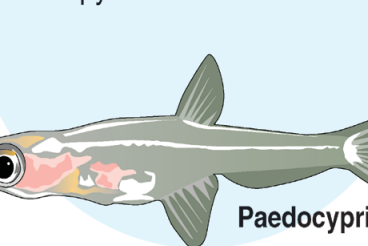
Mice

The **African pygmy mouse** is a close relative to the common house mouse. The body of this mouse is generally about 1 inch long (2 cm). It is very social and prefers living in groups.



Fish

The **Paedocypris fish** is the smallest fish and the second-smallest vertebrate in the world. It is found in the dark, swampy waters of Sumatra.

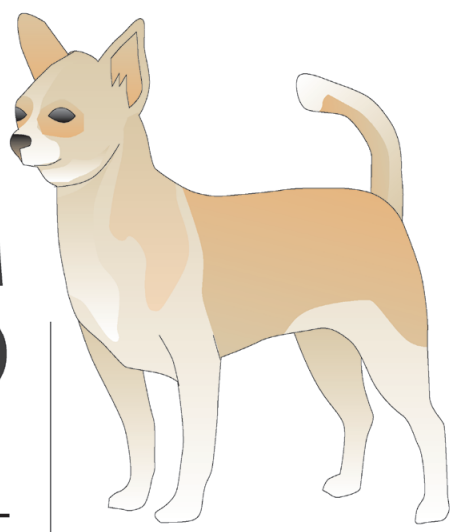
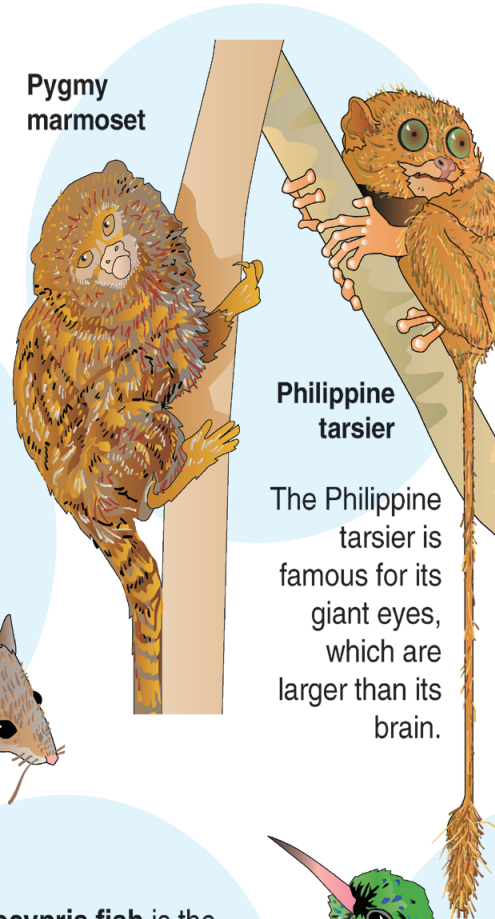


Primates

The smallest primate is the **Pygmy mouse lemur**. This tiny mammal can fit in the palm of your hand at 4.0 inches long (10 cm) and weighs about 1.0 ounce (28 grams).

Weighing just 4.20 ounces (130 grams) and only 5.5 to 6.3 inches (14 to 16 cm) in length, the **Pygmy marmoset** is the smallest monkey in the world and can probably wrap itself around your finger.

The **Philippine tarsier** is another of the world's smallest known primates. It is around the size of a man's hand.



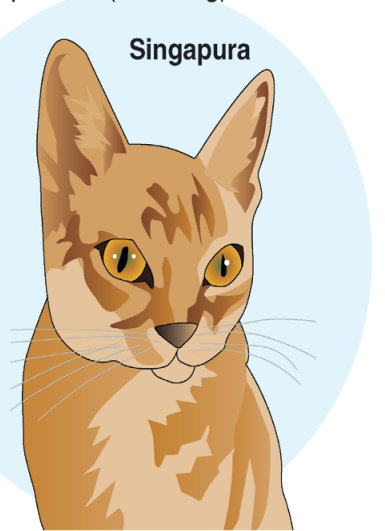
Chihuahua

Dogs

Chihuahuas are the smallest of dog breeds. They range in size from 6 to 9 inches (15 to 23 cm) tall at the shoulder and weigh 3 to 6 pounds (1 to 2 kg). The smallest dog ever, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, was a **dwarf Yorkshire terrier** that stood 2.8 inches (7.1 cm) tall.

Cats

Although not officially recognized as a breed on its own, the **Teacup persian** weighs 8 pounds (3 kg) or less. The **Singapura cat** is a registered breed with the Cat Fanciers' Association. It weighs 6 to 7 pounds (2 to 3 kg).



Teacup persian

Birds

The **Bee hummingbird** is the smallest bird in the world. It can be found in Cuba and the Isle of Youth in woodland areas and gardens. Sometimes mistaken for a bee, this bird is about 2.5 inches (6.2 cm) in length and weighs about 1.6 grams (0.1 oz). Bee hummingbirds have the second-fastest heart rate of all animals.



Bee Hummingbird

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.britannica.com>; www.oddee.com; <https://www.theguardian.com>; <https://www.livescience.com>; <https://www.sciencefocus.com>

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