

The microscopic Big Five at 40x



These five multicellular organisms are commonly found in moss. Read the descriptions carefully and look at the pictures to identify the animal you have found. Images are not to scale.



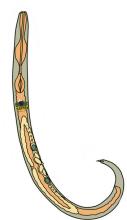
Mites

Look for:

- A dark pear-shaped body
- 8 legs with hooks on the end
- Long hairs on the body and legs
- Legs can be moving or tucked away

SEEN

Length range
0.4-1.0 mm



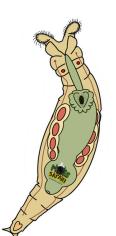
Nematodes (thread worms)

Look for:

- A long worm
- Pointed head end
- See-through body with a darker gut
- Eggs may be seen in the body as ovals

SEEN

Length range
0.4-1.0 mm



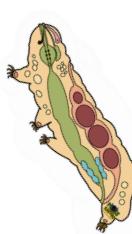
Rotifers (wheel animals)

Look for:

- A crawling worm-shaped
- Sometimes two 'wheel organs' open
- Two toes at the end of the body
- Egg may be seen in body as a dark oval

SEEN

Length range
0.2-0.6 mm



Tardigrades (water bears)

Look for:

- A sausage-shaped body
- 8 stubby legs with claws
- A pointed snout-shaped mouth
- Maybe two red or black eye spots

SEEN

Length range
0.4-0.8 mm



Gastrotrichs (hairy bellies)

Look for:

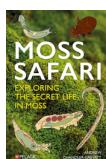
- A hairy flat worm
- A forked tail
- Long 'whiskers' from head
- Fast and darting when swimming

SEEN

Length range
0.2-0.4 mm



Find out more at www.mosssafari.com



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