[Template:Other uses2](/wiki/Template:Other_uses2" \o "Template:Other uses2) [Template:Refimprove](/wiki/Template:Refimprove) [frame|right|Simplified schematic of an island's fauna – all its animal species, highlighted in boxes](/wiki/File:Fauna.png)

**Fauna** is all of the [animal](/wiki/Animal) life of any particular region or time. The corresponding term for [plants](/wiki/Plant) is [*flora*](/wiki/Flora). Flora, fauna and other forms of life such as [fungi](/wiki/Fungus) are collectively referred to as [biota](/wiki/Biota_(taxonomy)). [Zoologists](/wiki/Zoology) and [paleontologists](/wiki/Paleontology) use *fauna* to refer to a typical collection of animals found in a specific time or place, e.g. the "[Sonoran Desert](/wiki/Sonoran_Desert) fauna" or the "[Burgess Shale](/wiki/Burgess_Shale) fauna". [Paleontologists](/wiki/Paleontology) sometimes refer to a sequence of [faunal stages](/wiki/Faunal_stage), which is a series of rocks all containing similar fossils.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

*Fauna* comes from the Latin names [Fauna](/wiki/Fauna_(deity)), a Roman goddess of earth and fertility, the Roman god [Faunus](/wiki/Faunus), and the related forest spirits called [Fauns](/wiki/Faun). All three words are cognates of the name of the Greek god [Pan](/wiki/Pan_(god)), and *panis* is the [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) equivalent of fauna. *Fauna* is also the word for a book that catalogues the animals in such a manner. The term was first used by [Linnaeus](/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus) in the title of his 1745[[1]](#cite_note-1) work *Fauna Suecica*.

## Subdivisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|right|300px|](/wiki/Image:Australisk_fauna,_Nordisk_familjebok.jpg)[Australian](/wiki/Australian_fauna) and [New Zealand fauna](/wiki/Fauna_of_New_Zealand). This image was likely first published in the first edition (1876–1899) of the [Nordisk familjebok](/wiki/Nordisk_familjebok).

### Cryofauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

*Cryofauna* are animals that live in, or very close to, [ice](/wiki/Ice).

### Cryptofauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

*Cryptofauna* are the fauna that exist in protected or concealed [microhabitats](/wiki/Microhabitats).[[2]](#cite_note-2)

### Infauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

*Infauna* are [benthic](/wiki/Benthic_zone) organisms that live within the bottom substratum of a body of water, especially within the bottom-most oceanic sediments, rather than on its surface. Bacteria and microalgae may also live in the interstices of bottom sediments. In general, infaunal animals become progressively smaller and less abundant with increasing water depth and distance from shore, whereas bacteria show more constancy in abundance, tending toward one million cells per milliliter of interstitial seawater.

### Epifauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Epifauna, also called *epibenthos*, are aquatic animals that live on the bottom substratum as opposed to within it, that is, the [benthic](/wiki/Benthic) fauna that live on top of the sediment surface at the seafloor.

### Macrofauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

*Macrofauna* are [benthic](/wiki/Benthic) or soil organisms which are retained on a 0.5 mm sieve. Studies in the deep sea define macrofauna as animals retained on a 0.3 mm sieve to account for the small size of many of the taxa.

### Megafauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

*Megafauna* are large animals of any particular region or time. For example, [Australian megafauna](/wiki/Australian_megafauna).

### Meiofauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) *Meiofauna* are small [benthic](/wiki/Benthic) [invertebrates](/wiki/Invertebrate) that live in both marine and fresh water [environments](/wiki/Ecosystem). The term *Meiofauna* loosely defines a group of [organisms](/wiki/Organism) by their size, larger than microfauna but smaller than macrofauna, rather than a taxonomic grouping. One environment for meiofauna is between grains of damp sand (see [Mystacocarida](/wiki/Mystacocarida)).

In practice these are metazoan animals that can pass unharmed through a 0.5 – 1 mm [mesh](/wiki/Mesh) but will be retained by a 30–45 μm mesh,[[3]](#cite_note-3) but the exact dimensions will vary from [researcher](/wiki/Research) to researcher. Whether an organism passes through a 1 mm mesh also depends upon whether it is alive or dead at the time of sorting.

### Mesofauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) *Mesofauna* are macroscopic soil invertebrates such as [arthropods](/wiki/Arthropod) or [nematodes](/wiki/Nematode). Mesofauna are extremely diverse; considering just the springtails ([Collembola](/wiki/Collembola)), as of 1998, approximately 6,500 species had been identified.[[4]](#cite_note-4)

### Microfauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

*Microfauna* are microscopic or very small animals (usually including [protozoans](/wiki/Protozoa) and very small animals such as [rotifers](/wiki/Rotifer)).

### Other[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|center|700px|Examples of fauna in](/wiki/Image:Fauna.jpg) [Olleros de Tera](/wiki/Olleros_de_Tera) ([Spain](/wiki/Spain))

Other terms include [*avifauna*](/wiki/Avifauna), which means "[bird](/wiki/Bird) fauna" and *piscifauna* (or [*ichthyofauna*](/wiki/Ichthyofauna)), which means "[fish](/wiki/Fish) fauna".

## Treatises[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

### Classic faunas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

* [Linnaeus, Carolus](/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus). *Fauna Suecica*. 1746

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Biodiversity](/wiki/Biodiversity)
* [Biome](/wiki/Biome)
* [Ecology](/wiki/Ecology)
* [Ecosystem](/wiki/Ecosystem)
* [Environmental movement](/wiki/Environmental_movement)
* [Fauna and Flora Preservation Society](/wiki/Fauna_and_Flora_Preservation_Society)
* [Gene pool](/wiki/Gene_pool)
* [Genetic erosion](/wiki/Genetic_erosion)
* [Genetic pollution](/wiki/Genetic_pollution)
* [Natural environment](/wiki/Natural_environment)
* [Soil zoology](/wiki/Soil_zoology)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary) [Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category)

* <http://www.springerlink.com/content/v7044wm252462k53/>

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