

## GIANT AFRICAN MILLIPEDE

| Class     | Order          | Family          | Genus                     | Species      |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Diplopoda | Spirostreptida | Spirostreptidae | <i>Archispirostreptus</i> | <i>gigas</i> |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Range:</b>   | Widespread in lowland areas of E. Africa from Mozambique to Kenya  |
| <b>Habitat:</b> | Mostly forests but can be found in all habitats; tropics, temperate, desert; under stones, rocks, in moist soil and leaf litter, in moist microclimates    |
| <b>Niche:</b>   | Detritivorous, nocturnal, terrestrial  |
| <b>Diet:</b>    | Wild: Scavengers of humus, rotting leaves, bark, fallen Fruit, and other decaying vegetable matter<br>Zoo: Lettuce, soft fruit, apple, orange, monkey chow |



**Special Adaptations:** Millipedes are slow moving and do not bite (unlike centipedes) but are powerful burrowers. They lack venom unlike centipedes. They defend themselves by rolling up into a tight coil. This species secretes an irritating liquid from pores on their body, which acts as a repellent against predators.

**Other:** Millipedes have elongated cylindrical bodies, with two pair of legs per segment. The Giant African Millipede is one of the largest millipedes (15.2 in). These animals grow gradually, adding segments with each molt. The egg is laid singly in soil, two-three weeks (temperature dependent). The hatchlings have few segments. Lifespan averages about 7-10 years. Monkeys and lemurs have been known to rub millipedes into fur as natural mosquito repellent.



## YELLOW-SPOTTED MILLIPEDE

| Class     | Order       | Family        | Genus           | Species           |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Diplopoda | Polydesmida | Xystodesmidae | <i>Harpaphe</i> | <i>haydeniana</i> |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Range:</b>   | Pacific coast of North America from California to British Columbia and Alaska |
| <b>Habitat:</b> | Moist forests   |
| <b>Niche:</b>   | Detritivorous, nocturnal, terrestrial   |
| <b>Diet:</b>    | Wild: Adult - leaf litter, immature – forest humus<br>Zoo:                    |



**Special Adaptations:** *H. haydeniana* have aposematic coloration and exude hydrogen cyanide when threatened. This behaviour gives rise to the common names "cyanide millipede" and "almond-scented millipede". They also are able to curl into a ball using their exoskeleton for protection

**Other:** Each time they shed their skin, they add a segment and become a slightly darker shade of grey and have slightly brighter yellow spots. Once they are about 4 to 5 cm long, 0.75 cm wide with their black and yellow colors, they are mature and are able to reproduce. At this point they have about 20 segments and females have 31 pairs of legs (14 double pairs and 3 single pairs) while males have only 30.