



### MAMMALS

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## Giant Zambian Mole-rat

*Cryptomys meachowi*

Peoria Zoo Exhibit

Africa!

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/africa.html>

**Habitat:** Tropical woodland and savanna

**Range:** Congo, northern Zambia and central Angola

**Activity Cycle:** Subterranean-can be active both day and night

**Size:** The largest of the mole rats.  
Displays sexual dimorphism— Males can weigh up to 600 g (21oz) , females up to 350 g (12 oz)

**Social Structure:** Highly social, usually living in a colony of at least 8.  
The colony contains a single reproductive female, breeding males, and a number of non-breeding workers.

**Distinguishing Features:** Covered in light brown fur with a streamlined body, a large head and short limbs. This allows them to move around the tunnels with ease.  
They have large, forwardly directed incisors they use to dig their burrows.

**Diet:** Roots, tubers, geophytes, herbs, and grasses

**Life Span:** Some mole-rats have been known to live into their 20s

### ***Did you know?***

***Giant Zambian Mole-rats have stiff tactile hairs that are scattered over much of their body that work the same way as whiskers on a cat.***