

Milly and Molly



Species

African giant millipede (*Archispirostreptus giga*)

Habitat

Native across subtropical west Africa. Found scurrying along the rainforest floor.

Care

Milly and Molly live together in a large tank. They have lots of eco earth to burrow in, hides to sleep in and plant décor to wiggle through. They like things nice and damp, so their tank is regularly misted with water.

Food

Milly and Molly eat fresh vegetables and fruit.

Characteristics

Milly and Molly are long and beautiful with lots and lots of wiggly legs. Milly is longer and jet black all over, Molly has brown stripes.

Why we love Milly and Molly

Watching a millipede uncurl is amazing. Their head pops out first with its long antennae, then they stretch out in a wave of wiggly, tickly legs.

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Milly and Molly's story



Milly and Molly are the largest species of millipede in the world and could grow up to 38.5 centimetres long.

Milly is longer than Molly and we estimate she has about 160 legs. This isn't quite as many as their name implies. Millipede literally translates to a thousand ('milli') feet ('pede'). They don't reach this number but giant millipedes can have up to 300-400 legs – which would be an awful lot of shoes so it's good they don't need them!

African giant millipedes are also known as train millipedes as they are made up of lots of segments, like the carriages on a train.

The millipedes grow by adding new segments – and each new segment has four new legs, two on each side. This is one of the ways you can tell the difference between a millipede and a centipede. Millipedes have four legs per segment, while centipedes have two. Another difference is that millipedes are herbivores and centipedes are carnivores. Millipedes only eat vegetables, fruit and the odd rotten leaf (they love foraging for these on the forest floor!).

Milly and Molly were rehomed with Clare in June 2018. They are friendly and fascinating to watch. They curl up in a cool ammonite shape to sleep, tucking their head in the middle to keep it protected. When they wake up, they like to explore and love climbing up and down arms! Their feet feel like a tickly suction brush, it's quite an experience!

