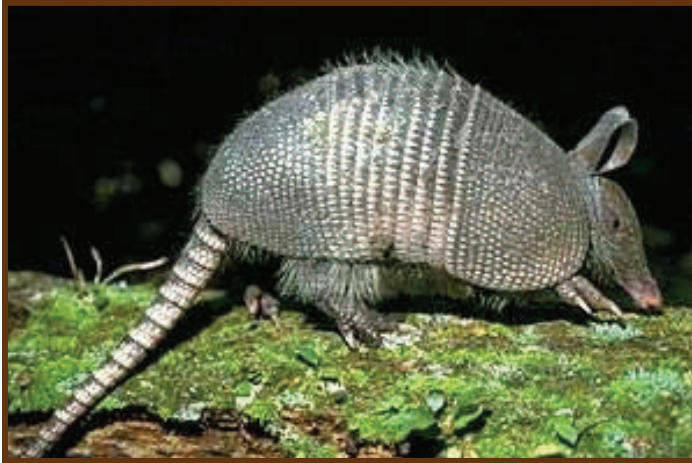




NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO

Dasypus novemcinctus



The Nine-banded Armadillo is the only North American mammal armored with heavy, bony plates. The scaly-looking plates cover the animal's head, body, and tail. The body is sparsely covered in hair that is brown or yellowish in color. Armadillos may become stained dark, even black, by the soil in which they dig. Although breeding occurs in July, the embryo remains in a dormant state until November. Four young are born in a burrow in March. The four young, which are always of the same sex, are identical quadruplets that develop from a single egg and share a single placenta while in the womb. Armadillos are the only mammals in which multiple young develop from a single egg with regularity.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The Nine-banded Armadillo is about the size of a cat. It is usually 24 to 31 inches in length.

WEIGHT

Male Nine-banded Armadillos weigh between 11 and 17 pounds, while females weigh between 8 and 13 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The Nine-banded Armadillo primarily eats animal matter. This consists of ants, small reptiles, amphibians, birds and dead animals. It will also eat fruits and berries.

HABITAT

The Nine-banded Armadillo can be found in a variety of habitats, including brushlands, woodlands, and grasslands.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Although Nine-banded Armadillos are originally native to South America, the armadillo now ranges as far north as Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Louisiana. Their distribution is often based on soil conditions, as they are not found where the soil is too hard to dig.

FUN FACT

The Nine-banded Armadillo is a distant cousin of the sloth and the anteater and is also the state small mammal of Texas.