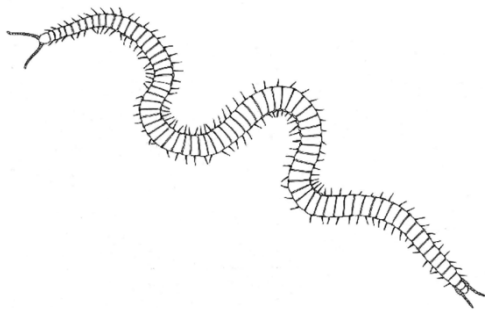


The Soil Food Web

Understanding and cultivating the soil food web is a key to organic farming. Each cup of biologically active soil can contain as many living organisms as there are people on the planet. With increasing body size, soil dwelling organisms use more carbon and less nitrogen. For example, single cell bacteria have one part nitrogen for each 5 parts carbon but nematodes have one part nitrogen for each 15 parts carbon.

When a nematode eats bacteria or fungi, excess nitrogen is released into the soil as microbe manure. Plants use the nitrogen and other soil nutrients to grow and provide more carbon organic matter as food for the bacteria, fungi and actinomycetes so the cycle begins again.

The drawing illustrates the estimated number of soil organisms that exist for every vertebrate animal on earth.



About MOFFA

The Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance was organized in 1992 as a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting organic agriculture and the development and support of food systems that revitalize and sustain local communities. MOFFA was one of the first organizations in Michigan and in the nation to actively promote these principles.

MOFFA welcomes new members to join us and get involved in creating a better food system for Michigan. Our members include organic and other farmers, food coops, educators, environmentalists, food businesses, food and farm activists and concerned citizens throughout Michigan and elsewhere.

Each year MOFFA sponsors and/or exhibits at a number of major conferences and festivals in Michigan, which allows us to reach many more individuals with our limited resources. We publish a Guide to Organic and Ecologically Sustainable Growers and Farms, and monitor public policy issues that relate to regenerative farming. We also maintain a website and a Facebook page, and publish a quarterly newsletter.

All of this activity is made possible by the contributions of our members. If you're not a current member, we hope you will take a few minutes to lend your support.

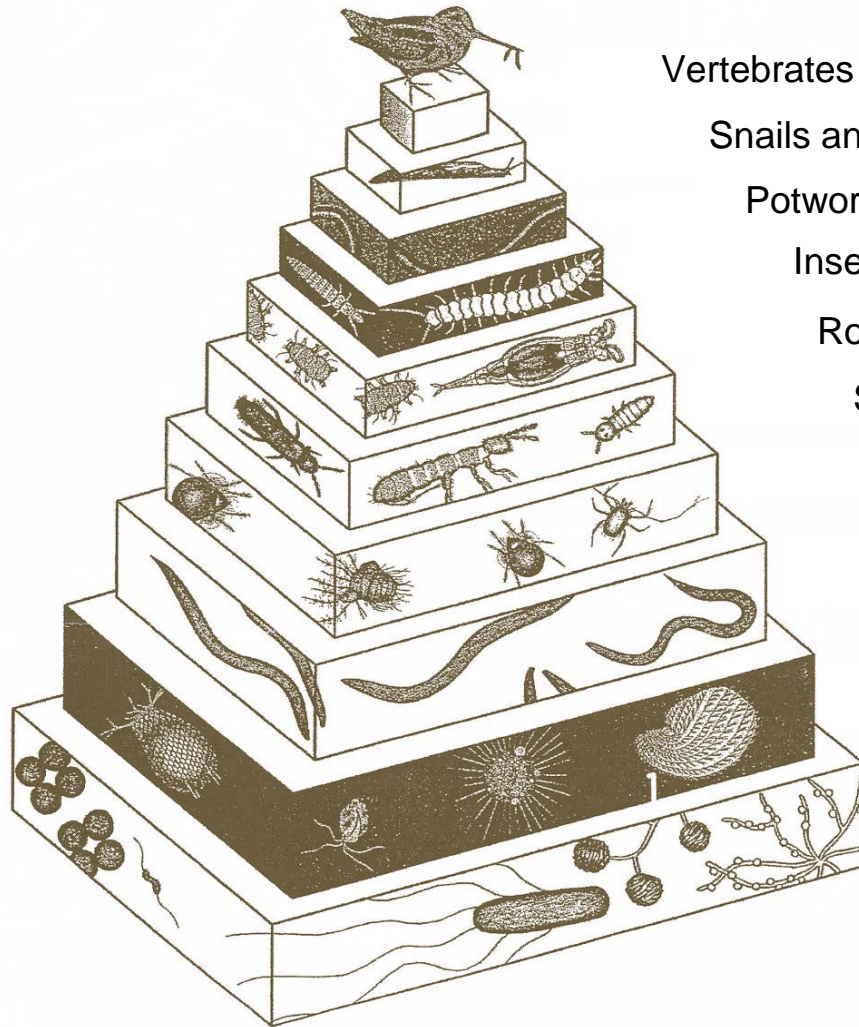


The Soil Food Web



MOFFA

P.O. Box 26102 · Lansing MI 48909
moffaorganic@gmail.com
www.moffa.net



Vertebrates (1)

Snails and Slugs (100)

Potworms and Earthworms (3,000)

Insects, Myriapods, Spiders, Diplurans (5,000)

Rotifers and Tardigrades (10,000)

Springtails (50,000)

Mites (100,000)

Nematodes (5,000,000)

Protozoa & Fungi (10,000,000,000)

Bacteria & Actinomycetes
(10,000,000,000,000)

The drawing illustrates the estimated number of soil organisms that exist for every vertebrate animal on earth.

Drawing by Dr. James B. Nardi, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.