

Common Leaf Litter Rove Beetles of Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Presented to Scale

Rove beetles (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) are members of the largest beetle family, with 52,000+ species worldwide, 4,100+ species in North America, and 370+ species known from GSMNP (Tennessee/North Carolina, USA). Rove beetles are small (most 1–12 mm, max 35 mm) and very diverse in form and lifestyle (predators, scavengers, parasites, etc.). Below are the most common rove beetles found in leaf litter in the GSMNP (Ferro *et al.* 2012) shown in relative scale and approximate life size.

Rove beetles and most other organisms that live in forest leaf litter exist in a world just out of the reach of human senses. Technology gives us tools to move beyond ourselves and discover the invisible landscape that exists along the trail, in our back yards, and even between the cracks in the sidewalk. Embrace the tools that let us explore the universe, and you may fall into the world below one centimeter.



Approximate Life Size

