

# Giant Anteater

Oh-Arikui

## Scientific name

*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*

## Classification

Pilosa, Vermilingua, Myrmecophagidae

## Distribution

Belize, Guatemala-Northern South America, Uruguay, Northern Argentina

## Feeding Habits

It is said to eat 30,000 to 50,000 ants or termites per a day.

## Characteristics

It is large, about 130-150 cm in length, has a grayish brown body, has a black belt that passes from the throat to the shoulders and reaches the back, and is surrounded by a white border.

The long tail is covered with about 30 cm of hair, and the snout is elongated and cylindrical. There are no teeth in the mouth.

The tongue, which looks like an earthworm, can be taken in and out about 150 times in one minute, and can be put out up to about 60 cm.

## Behavior and ecology

It inhabits grasslands and relatively open areas of the tropical lowland in Central and South America.

It is a hypothermic animal with a body temperature of 32°C to 35°C.

It has a very good sense of smell, it finds its prey by smell and destroys ant hills or termite mounds with its sharp claws.

