



## Goliath Beetles!



The Goliath Beetle is the largest beetle on the planet because of their combination of weight and size. These amazing creatures can be found in warm climate and dense rainforests of Africa, and have sharp claws for climbing trees.

Goliath Beetles are usually 2 – 4 inches long, and weigh up to 1.7 ounces as an adult. But during their larval stage, they can weigh twice that much!

Adult Goliath Beetles can also lift a load that is 850 times heavier than their own weight! If humans could lift 850 times their weight, we would be able to lift over 70 tons. That means you would be able to pick up a dozen cars in each hand and still be able to lift more!

Female Goliath Beetles lay eggs in soil that is rich in proteins. So when her eggs hatch, the larvae will have plenty of plants, animal dung and remains to eat.

The larva dig an underground burrow and eat for 5 months, growing to 5 inches long. When the summer rainy season starts, the larva grow a pupal case and go through metamorphosis underground. When they emerge as an adult, they will hibernate until the start of the winter dry season.



Their color is usually a combination of black, brown and white. Males have Y-shaped horns on the heads that are used to fight other males for territory and mates. Females have a wedge-shaped head.

Goliath beetles have pair of wings called elytra that protect softer wings underneath them. When it spreads its flying wings, the second pair of wings becomes visible.