CATALOGING BIODIVERSITY IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK for 20 years... and counting

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the most biodiverse regions in North America. Nestled within these ancient mountains are many endemic species that only exist here and nowhere else in the world!

By conducting an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Discover Life in America (DLIA) have sought to answer four basic questions:

- What species are here?
- What are their geographic distributions?
- What are their relative abundance?
- What are their ecological relationships to other species?

WHAT DO WE GET FROM BIODIVERSITY?
- Food
- Pollination
- Water purification
- Air purification
- Beauty, human well-being

INSECTS 47.2% of species in GSMNP
OTHER ARTHROPODS 17.0%
OTHER INVERTEBRATES 2.7%
VERTEBRATES 2.5%
MICROBES 7.5%
PLANTS 13.5%
FUNGI 16.9%

DID YOU KNOW?
Bears, elk, squirrels, chipmunks, fish, reptiles and amphibians make up only 25% of the Smokies biodiversity. Wildflowers and other plants contribute only 13.5% more. Insects, spiders, snails, lichens and fungi comprise an astounding 64% of the total. These species contribute critical ecological functions in the Smokies ecosystem that often go unnoticed.

The Smokies ATBI has discovered more than 1,000 species never before documented by scientists, many of them in these overlooked groups. We aim to have the best-known biodiversity anywhere on the planet.

WHAT HAS DLIA DISCOVERED IN GSMNP?

- MOLLUSCS: 184 species
- SLIME MOLDS: 62 species
- LICHENS: 63 species
- ANTS, BEES, WASPS: 16 species
- SPRINGTAILS: 208 species
- BEETLES: 292 species
- MITES: 292 species
- WATER BEARS: 18 species
- BACTERIA: 470 species

How can you support DLIA?
- Provide financial support
- Volunteer and become a citizen scientist
- Participate in education programs and special events
- Purchase the DLIA t-shirt at smokelifeinformation.org
- Add your own species observations to DLIA’s iNaturalist project at iNaturalist.org

LEARN MORE AT DLIA.ORG