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**02/12/2023**

# ENDEMIC ANIMALS FROM MEXICO

## THE AJOLOTE

The axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) is one of the characteristic animals of Mexico. The species is endemic to the Xochimilco valley, where it lives in shallow lagoons and channels. Unfortunately, the axolotl is in critical danger of extinction due to pollution, the destruction of its habitat, the introduction of other species with which it must compete, and trafficking to be used in medicine or as a pet.



## DWARF CHARA

It measures about 24 centimeters and weighs 40 grams. It is distributed throughout the humid forests of Xalapa and between Oaxaca and Caripán.

The species is characterized by having dark blue plumage with black areas and a light-colored chest. It is part of the passerine birds, an order to which more than half of the birds in the world belong, and which are distinguished for being singers.



## GULF SPINY IGUANA

It lives in the northern part of Mexico, where it lives in forested areas with trees and rocks. It feeds on leaves and fruits that it finds.

The Gulf spiny iguana is diurnal and loves to sunbathe, like other iguana species. It is easy to recognize by its dark body topped with pointed scales in the back area.



## TEHUANTEPEC HARE

Another animal of Mexico is the Tehuantepec hare (*Lepus flavigularis*), a species that inhabits the savannahs of Oaxaca and the Gulf of Tehuantepec. It is characterized by having shiny brown fur on its back, a white abdomen and two black stripes that go down from its ears to its neck.

Little is known about the number of specimens that exist or their breeding period, but it is one of the largest hares in Mexico.



## TEPORINGO

It lives in the volcanic highlands of Mexico, in the grasslands that grow around it. Its diet is herbivorous and it lives in groups of up to 6 individuals.

This species is distinguished by measuring 30 centimeters and weighing just over half a kilo. It has yellow and black fur with other areas.



## COZUMEL RACCOON

It is another of the endemic animals of Mexico. It lives only on the island of Cozumel, near the Yucatan Peninsula. It is a species that feeds on lizards, insects and small marine animals, but also consumes fruits and vegetables. It weighs only 4 kilos and has brown fur with a black stripe over the eyes.

## MEXICAN SCORPIO

It is a species found in Mexico City and Tlaxcala, where it prefers to live in logs, between rocks and in burrows. The species is characterized by having a dark brown color with lighter pincers. Its sting, although pointed, does not represent a danger to humans. It measures only 5 centimeters and feeds on other smaller insects.

