

# Identification of the three earthworm types

## 1. Litter dwelling earthworm

- Dark red/purple
- Adults usually under 7 cm



## 2. Soil dwelling earthworm

- Unpigmented (pink/ greenish, light grey, white)
- Adults usually 7-12 cm long
- Colour is a more reliable indicator than size for soil dwelling earthworms



## 3. Deep burrowing earthworm

- Pigmented on their front end which is dark red/purple
- Adults usually over 12 cm long



## Adult or juvenile?

- Adult earthworms have a clitellum
- Young litter dwelling worm may look like a deep burrower, but here is how you can tell the difference:
- Watch how the worm crawls:
  - if the width of the worm's body is greater than 2 mm and the earthworm's tail flattens when it moves, it is an anecic species