

## X MARKS THE ANIMAL

ANIL

Perth, Australia

In creating *Silly Animal Rhymes and Stories A to Z* I sought an Animal Uni-verse poem for every letter of the alphabet. For X I used xenopus, the South African “clawed toad”, an aquatic frog well known as a former test animal for human pregnancy. How many other X animals are there? The only common ones are xiphias the swordfish and the xylophages or wood-eating insects.

To my surprise I found a great many others. The largest sources were Web3 and a Google list of ‘Animals that begin with X’. Others not in either were found in Grzimek’s *Animal Life Encyclopedia*—Vertebrates (vols. 4-13); Australian Geographic’s *Concise Animal Encyclopedia*; Collin’s *Scrabble Dictionary*; and Ruppert et al.’s *Invertebrate Zoology*.

Instead of listing all of those found, since most are Latin taxa—genera, families, orders, etc—I will only list the 37 English names. As over half of these are Xs due to geographic location or discovering scientists’ names, the 17 that are common nouns are **bold**.

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| Xami hairstreak (butterfly; Google)      | Xanthippe’s shrew (Google)                   |
| Xantic sargo (fish; Google)              | Xantus’ becard (bird; Google)                |
| Xantus’ hummingbird (Grzimek)            | Xantus’ leaf-toed gecko (Google)             |
| Xantus’ murrelet (a seabird; Web3)       | Xantus’ swimming crab (Google)               |
| Xavier’s greenbul (bird; Google)         | <b>xeme</b> (Arctic gull; Google)            |
| Xeniades swallowtail (butterfly; Google) | Xenoclea longwing (butterfly; Google)        |
| Xenocrates leafwing (butterfly; Google)  | <b>xenophora</b> (carrier snail; Web3)       |
| <b>xenopus</b> (Web3)                    | <b>xenosaur</b> (crocodile lizards; Grzimek) |
| <b>xenurine</b> (armadillo; Collins)     | Xestus sabretooth blenny (fish; Google)      |
| Xingu corydoras (fish; Google)           | Xingu River ray (Google)                     |
| Xinjiang ground-jay (Google)             | <b>xiphias</b> (Web3)                        |
| XL Spring tui chub (fish; Google)        | Xolocalca bromeliad salamander (Google)      |
| <b>X-ray tetra</b> (fish; Google)        | Xucaneb robber frog (Google)                 |
- xenacanthine** (a shark relative fossil; Web3)  
**xenophytophore** (giant foraminiferan; Ruppert)  
**xenoposeidon** (Neosauropoda dinosaur; Google)  
**xeric ambersnail** (terrestrial snail; Google)  
**xiphidiocercaria** (parasitic fluke larva; Web 3)  
**xolo** (breed of Mexican hairless dog; Google)  
√— **xurel 1** (big-eyed scad or goggler fish; Web3)  
**xurel 2** (saurel—horse and jack mackerels; Web3) (Not related to the holy mackerel.)  
Xuthus swallowtail (butterfly; Google)  
**xylophage** (wood-eating insect, especially beetles; Web 3; and see next:)  
**xylophagous leafhopper** (wood-eating insect; Google)

