The nine-banded armadillo can be found in the forest, pine savanna and other lowland habitats in Belize. In fact it has a rather large range of occurrence from the southern United States, through Central America to Argentina.

The armadillo is a mammal, though its lack of body hair, notably low body temperature and scaly shell and skin make it seem vaguely reptilian. These attributes also make it difficult for the armadillo to control its body temperature. To avoid day time heat, armadillos rest underground and emerge in the cool of the night.

Armadillos can be engaging creatures to observe both because of their appearance and actions; for instance the unexpected ability to leap from standing and walk along river bottom. Two notable physical features are its strong, sharp claws and armoured plates. The armour is helpful against enemies both as a deterrent to bites and as a way to escape into areas where predators cannot follow. It’s claws are less for defense and more digging tools. They allow the armadillos to efficiently construct underground burrows. In addition to staying cool, the nine-banded armadillo use them to escape and avoid predators and to give birth.

These burrows are part and parcel of Belize’s savanna habitats. One study conducted in northern Belize estimated 6 armadillo burrows per hectare in open savanna and up to 27 per hectare in pine savanna. Some even believe that numerous armadillos holes play a part in more quickly receding floods after heavy rains.

Abandoned armadillo holes are of use to many reptiles including the basilisk lizard (Basiliscus vittatus), the furrowed wood turtle (Rhinoclemmys areolata) and several snake species such as the savanna dweller the neotropical rattlesnake (Crotalus durissus) [See Factsheet No. D1], tropical rat snakes (Spilotes pullatus) and boa constrictors (Boa constrictor).

The armadillo is considered desirable bush meat throughout its range. A lesser known use of the armadillo has been in the study of leprosy. Armadillos are one of a few animals susceptible to leprosy and because of their low body temperature they are ideal hosts for the disease.
References:
