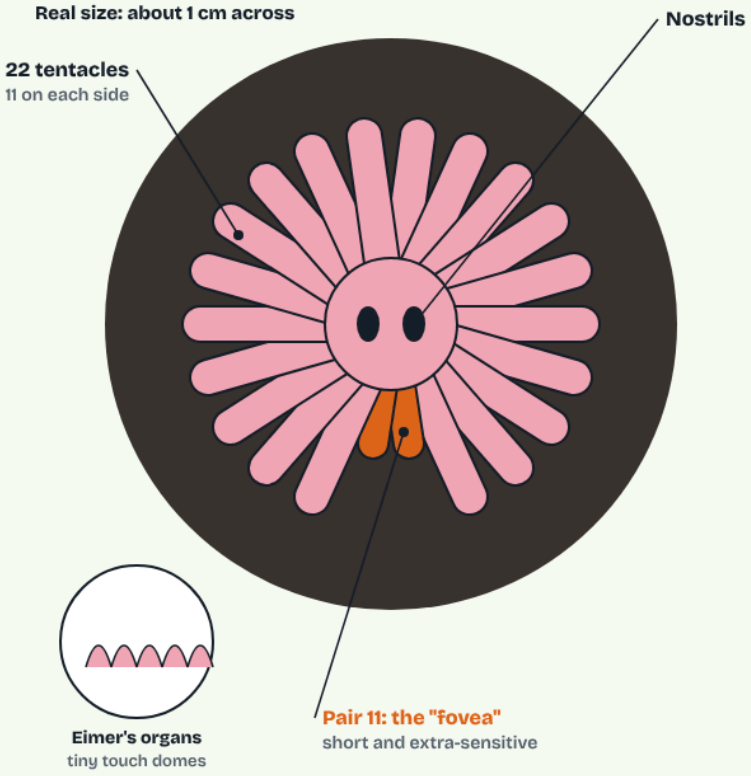
That is why

What is the star on a star-nosed mole?

A ring of 22 fleshy tentacles packed with about 25,000 touch sensors. It works like an eye made of touch.

A The star, face on



B Touch, decide, eat

1. **Touch**
   The star taps 10 to 15 spots of mud every second.
2. **Check with the fovea**
   Anything interesting is touched again with the sensitive pair 11.
3. **Decide and eat**
   The brain decides in a few hundredths of a second.

World's fastest forager

227 ms

on average to find, check and eat one item, and as little as 120 ms.

C Key facts

1. **25,000 sensors**
   About 6 times as many as in a whole human hand.
2. **A brain built for touch**
   About half of its touch brain area handles the nose, a tiny part of its body.
3. **Smells underwater**
   It blows 8 to 12 tiny bubbles a second onto prey and sniffs them back in.

Lives in wet soil and marshes in north-eastern North America.

In the dark, the star-nosed mole sees with its nose.

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