

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 75 (2009)
Heft: [3]

Artikel: The European badger
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944442>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

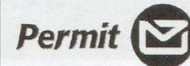
Download PDF: 12.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Sender:

The Secretary of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc
Trudi Brühlmann
401 Marine Drive
Mahina Bay
Eastbourne
Lower Hutt 5013

New Zealand
Permit No. 93966



HELVE⁺IA

Magazine for Members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc

FAUNA IN SWITZERLAND

The European Badger

The European Badger is a mammal indigenous to most of Europe and to many parts of Asia. It is a member of the Mustelidae family, and so is related to stoats, otters and weasels.

The general hue of its fur is grey above and black on the under parts with a distinctive black and white striped face and white-tipped ears. European badgers are around 70 cm long with a tail of about 20 cm and weigh 10 kg on average, but weights can vary enormously. Badgers do not hibernate, although in areas with cold winter climates they may become torpid for two or so days at a time. They have to put on fat in the autumn to help them get through the winter months. In parts of Russia, badgers have been reported to weigh up to 42 kg in autumn.

Badgers are effectively omnivorous; most of their diet consists of earthworms, although they also eat insects, beetles, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, eggs, young birds, berries, roots, bulbs, nuts, fruit and other plant matter, depending on the season. They also dig up the nests of wasps and bumblebees in order to eat the larvae.

Badgers prefer grazed pasture and woodland, which have high numbers of earthworms exposed,

and dislike clay soil, which is difficult to dig even with their powerful claws. In urban areas, some badgers scavenge food from bins and gardens.

Badgers are nocturnal and spend the day in their setts, or extensive networks of tunnels dug in well-drained ground (or sometimes beneath buildings or

roads). Setts give shelter from the weather and predators, including humans and dogs. Badgers are territorial, but can be found in groups often called clans. Group size varies between 2 to 12. Each clan has a dominant male and female which are often (but not always) the only members of the clan to reproduce. Badgers have a gestation period of 7-8 weeks and give birth to 1-5 offspring. Males are called boars and females sows; the young

are cubs. Badgers live for up to 15 years (average 3 years) in the wild, and up to 19 years in captivity. If they survive their first year, the most common cause of death is by road traffic.

Badgers can catch and carry rabies and are believed to transmit bovine tuberculosis.

Badgers occur throughout Switzerland, although not above 1800 m above sea level. About 1500 badgers are hunted each year, and in some cantons farmers are compensated for crop damage.

Wikipedia and other sources



The European Badger or Dachs