

Badger-Broc

Meles Meles Linnaeus

Identification

The Badger belongs to the Mustelidae Family, which also includes the otter, pine marten, mink, and stoat. Unlike the other members of the Mustelidae family the Badger is stockily built with short powerful legs and a short bushy tail. Males are larger than the females. Boars may weigh up to 17kg but are more usually about 10kg or 11kg and females may weigh up to 12kg though more likely to be 9kg or 10kg. The Badger has very acute hearing though poor eyesight but their senses are very good. The Badger is one of the most beautiful animals, being strictly nocturnal, it is rarely seen alive by most people.

Diet

The Badgers diet consists of earthworms, insects and small mammals. They also eat a wide range of vegetable foods such as cereals, apples, blackberries, elderberries, acorns fungi, clover and grass.

Habitat

Badgers normally inhabit woodlands and farmlands. In Ireland Badgers have adapted well to the relative lack of woodlands and are found in all habitats below the 500m altitude where the soil is dry and not subject to flooding. Badgers are social animals and live in complex underground tunnel systems called setts. Badgers are compulsive and powerful diggers and spend considerable time maintaining and modifying their setts.

Sainaitheint

Is ball den Fhine Mustelidae an Broc, ar fine i lena n-áiritear an Dobharchú, an Cat Crainn, an Mhinc agus an Easóg. Tá an Broc neamhchosúil le baill eile na fine Mustelidae sa chaoi go bhfuil cuma dhingithe air agus cosa gearra cumhachtacha agus earaball gearr dosach. Bionn an broc fireann níos mó ná an broc baineann. Is féidir le meáchan an toirc a bheith cothrom le suas le 17 kg ach is iondúil a bhíonn meachán an toirc cothrom le 10 kg nó 11 kg agus d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh meáchan an bhoicí bhainnin cothrom le suas le 12 kg cé gurb é 9kg nó 10kg an meáchan is mó í cosúil a bheidh aici. Bionn eisearacht an-ghéar ag an mBroc ach ní bhíonn radharc na súl go maith aige cé go mbíonn a chéadfaí an-mhaith. Tá an Broc ar cheann de na hainmhithe is áille atá ann, agus toisc gur ainmhi oíche é, is beag duine a fheiceanna ina bheocht é.

Cothú

Siad péisteanna talún, feithidi agus mamaigh bheaga na nithe a itheann an Broc. Itheann sé réimse leathan de bhianna glásraí amhail gránaigh, úlla, sméara dubha caora an troim, dearcaín, fungais, seamra agus féar.

Gnáthóig

De gnáth cónaíonn an Broc i gcoilleannach agus ar thalamh feirme. Toisc nach bhfuil mórán coilleannai in Éirinn, i gcomparáid le tortha eile, bhí ar an mBroc é fein a chur in oiriúnt don tir agus bionn sé i ngach gnáthóig atá faoi bhun airde de 500m, áit a mbíonn an cré tirim agus nach mbíonn baol tuile ann. Is ainmhi sóisialta é an Broc agus cónaíonn sé i gcoraí chasta tolláin thíos faoin talamh. Tugtar brocach ar ait chónaithe an Bhoicí. Tá an Broc ina thochaltóir éigníoch agus cumhachtach agus caitheann sé mórán ama lena bhrocach a choimeád agus a mhodhnú. An Timthriall Atáirgthe Is idir mí an Mhárta agus mí na Samhna a thiteann séasúr na cúplála ach is i mí Albreáin nó i mí na Bealtaine den chuid is mó a dhéanann an Broc baineann cúpláil, cé go bhféadfadh sí a bheith ag cothú a hóige ag an am sin.

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta & Fiadhúla

National Parks & Wildlife Service



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