

# BADGER

## MELES MELES

### **DISTINGUISHING MARKS:**

Sturdy, low footed. Length of the body 60-85 cm, weight 5-18 kg. Rough hairy silver grey fur, stomach black, face white, black stripes on the sides of nose.

### **PREVALENCE:**

Southern and central part of the country.

### **HABITAT:**

Resident of the forests, but visits often the farmland for food supplying, too.

### **LIFE STYLES:**

Moves primarily in obscure weather, but also in afternoons. Underground cave nest forms an extensive corridor network and nest cavities, where badger spend its rest time and sleeps winter sleep from October to April. Each family has own his cave.

### **NOURISHMENT:**

Badger is omnivorous, it eats different spinelesses and small vertebrates, berries, mushrooms, roots and grain.

### **BREEDING:**

Badgers' mating time is in June. It has a delayed embryonic development and the youngs (usually two) are born in the March- April. Badger doesn't breed every year, but is regulating the magnitude of the population by itself. The litter sticks together usually until to autumn.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:**

Badger is not threaten by the change of the habitat caused by human, on the contrary it looks like population has benefited from the expanding of the agriculture.

### **HUNTING:**

Not significant as a hunting target.

### **PRESERVATION:**

Badger may live in its own peace, however it is killed sometimes on the traffic routes.

