

Honey Badger

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Honey Badger Latest News

The Dewas forest department recently confirmed the presence of the elusive honey badger (Ratel) within the Kheoni wildlife sanctuary.

About Honey Badger

- The honey badger, or **ratel**, is a **small mammal** that is **very strong and tough**.
- It is a member of the **weasel family**, which includes **skunks**.
- Scientific Name: *Mellivora capensis*.

Honey Badger Habitat and Distribution

- The honey badger has a wide, **extensive historical distribution range**, which extends through **most of sub-Saharan Africa**.
- It occurs from the **Western Cape to southern Morocco** and **southwestern Algeria**.
- In addition, it also **occurs in Arabia, Iran, and western Asia**, as well as the **Indian peninsula**.

- They live **mainly in dry areas** but are also found in **forests and grasslands**.
- They **live in holes, which they dig with their strong front legs**.

Honey Badger Features

- Adult honey badgers have a shoulder height of up to 12 inches (30 centimeters).
- Their bodies are between 24 and 30 inches (61 and 76 centimeters) long, with tails of about 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 centimeters).
- The **males are much larger than the females**.
- Their **skin is thick, tough and loose, allowing** the honey badger **to twist and escape from the grip of their attacker**.
- Their **ears are poorly developed**.
- Their **upper parts are white**, and the **lower parts are black**.
- They are **nocturnal**.
- Honey badgers have **powerful 1.5-inch-long (4 cm) claws and teeth** that are strong **enough to crack a tortoise shell**, making these small mammals a formidable opponent.
- Honey badgers have **glands that give off a bad smell**. They use this smell to **defend themselves against larger animals**.
- Honey badgers are **omnivores**, feasting on a wide range of food, including birds, reptiles, rodents, berries, roots, and fruits.
- They are **ferocious hunters**, known to **take on powerful animals** that's more than many times their size.

Honey Badger Conservation Status

It is classified as '**Least Concern**' under the IUCN Red List.

Key Facts about Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the Dewas district of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is spread over an area of 132 sq.km.
- It is **connected to Ratapani Tiger Reserve** through corridors.
- **Flora**: The **dry deciduous forest** consists of **teak, tendu, and bamboo**.
- **Fauna**: Its wildlife includes **jackals, palm civets, Leopards**, Sloth bears, Hyenas, Nilgai, and many bird species.

Source: **TOI**

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