

Spotted hyena

Why in News?

A recent study discovered that the hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), one of Africa's most abundant carnivores, appeared in southern Egypt after it became extinct in Egypt 5,000 years ago.

- It is a Non-arboreal, Nocturnal, Highly social hyena species found abundant in **sub Saharan Africa**.
- It is also known as the laughing hyena.
- **Scientific Name** - *Crocutta crocutta*.
- **Family** - Hyaenidae (largest extant member of the Hyaenidae).
- **Weight** - 40-86 kg - females often weigh more than males.
- **Habitat** - Semi-desert, savanna and open woodland, dense, dry woodland, and montane regions.
- **Range** - Sub-Saharan Africa, though historically across Africa and Eurasia.
- **Distinction** - It is physically distinguished from other species by its vaguely bear-like build, rounded ears, less prominent mane, spotted pelt, more dual-purposed dentition, fewer nipples, and pseudo-penis.
- It is the **only placental mammalian species** where females have a pseudo-penis and lack an external vaginal opening.



- **Diet** - Carnivorous.
- **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN Status** - Least Concern.
 - **CITES Appendix** - Not listed.
- **Population in Wild** - 27,000-47,000 individuals; most abundant within the **Serengeti ecosystem and Kruger National Park**.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and poaching.

References

1. [Down to Earth | Spotted Hyena](#)
2. [Inaturalist | Spotted Hyena](#)

