

Flowers Pollination by Large Carnivore

Source: DTE

The **Ethiopian wolf, a rare and <u>endangered</u>** species, acts as an **unexpected_<u>pollinator</u>**, challenging traditional views on **plant-pollinator relationships**.

- The Ethiopian wolf feeds on the nectar of Ethiopian red hot poker flowers, potentially aiding in pollination by transferring pollen on its muzzle.
 - The Ethiopian red hot poker is a **red and yellow colored flower** that produces a **sweet nectar** attracting a host of pollinators.

The Vision



Ethiopian Wolf:

- It is a specialised rodent hunter in the Afroalpine ecosystem.
 - Afroalpine ecosystems are unique high-altitude regions of Africa, particularly in the <u>Ethiopian</u> Highlands (3200 meters above sea level, cold and harsh climate).
- It is about the size of a large dog, with a reddish coat, white markings on its throat and chest, and a black bushy tail.
- With fewer than **500 alive** today, it is Africa's most **endangered carnivore**.
- It lives only in Ethiopia, in high-altitude "sky islands" above the tropical forests.
 - Sky Islands are isolated mountains surrounded by radically different lowland environments.
- Other Carnivore Pollinators: Bats are nectar-eating pollinator mammals.

- Small carnivore species such as **civets or mongooses** do pollination.
- Omnivorous bears, such as **sun bears**, may eat nectar too.

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