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Language



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hi·ber·nac·u·lum  (hī'bər-năk yə-ləm)

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n. pl. hi·ber·nac·u·la (-lə)

Biology

1. A protective case, covering, or structure, such as a plant bud, in which an organism remains dormant for the winter.
2. The shelter of a hibernating animal.

[Latin *hibernāculum*, winter residence, from *hibernāre*, to winter, from *hibernus*, relating to winter; see **ghei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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