

Echidna

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Year 5



Chapter 1



The scientific name for an echidna is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* (which means spiny fast-tongue or spiny anteater).

There are two main types of echidna: the short-beaked and the long-beaked echidna.

Echidnas have been known to live for up to fifty years.
Each of the echidna's spines is formed from a single hair.
An echidna can lift objects twice its weight and / or size.

Echidnas like to lay in the sun like lizards. They also lay eggs like lizards. The eggs are kept warm for 10 days inside the mother's pouch before hatching.

Ancestors of echidnas roamed the planet with dinosaurs. Dinosaurs died out but monotremes are still alive.

Echidnas are active day and night and like to be by themselves

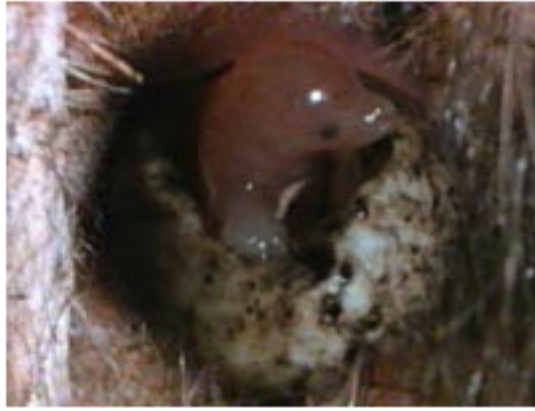


Echidnas are warm-blooded mammals called monotremes because they lay eggs.

The eggs are smaller than a 5 cent piece.

The 5 cent piece also has a short beaked echidna on it.





Both kinds of Echidnas drink water and can swim





A baby echidna is called a puggle. Puggles are born blind and hairless. Puggles drink milk from their mother. Echidna milk is pink because of the high iron content.





Echidnas are strong diggers and they have long, sharp claws. Short-beaked echidnas eat ants and termites. They live in Australia. Long-beaked echidnas eat worms and insect larvae. They live in New Guinea.





Echidnas have a small mouth and no teeth. They have a long, sticky tongue which sticks out from its mouth.

