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Animals of Shark Bay

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Short-beaked echidna



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



For ages 4 and up

Short-beaked echidna

(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

The echidna or spiny anteater, is one of only five living species of monotremes. They are mammals that have fur and produce milk for their young, but are unique in that they lay eggs from which the young hatch. There are five subspecies of the Australian echidna found in different regions.

Length: 35–40 centimetres

Weight: 4.5–7 kilograms

Distribution Map



Habitat: The short-beaked echidna can be found in many different habitats within Australia from regions with tropical grasslands to arid deserts and even snow-covered mountains.

Diet: Ants and termites.