



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAMMAL?



NEAR THREATENED*

ECHIDNA

i I'm a **Short-beaked Echidna** (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), a native monotreme - meaning I'm a mammal that lays eggs! I can grow quite large - up to 50cm in length!

🌲 I can be found living in almost all habitat types - so long as there is a good supply of ants and termites for me to feed on! My preferred habitats have rocks, hollow logs, dense ground cover vegetation, and/or tree roots within which I can burrow and hide.

🔍 I'm one of Australia's most distinctive native animals - being covered in fur and spines - though my spines are actually long, toughened, hollow hair! My fur is dark brown and my spines are pale with a dark tip. I also have short, stumpy, strong legs flattened claws and hind-feet that point backwards! My pointy

snout is about 8cm long and has a specialised long, sticky tongue that lets me reach deep into termite mounds and wood hollows to feed on ants and termites.

🐾 I prefer to live alone, though during the winter breeding season you might be lucky enough to see up to 10 of us together as part of a love train, where males follow a female around in an orderly line! I lay just 1 egg each year, and my offspring is called a 'puggle'.

🔊 I won't make a vocal noise, though you might hear me moving around the undergrowth searching for food. I'm also a surprisingly good swimmer and climber! When scared or threatened I will roll myself up into prickly ball, tucking my face and belly away under my protective spines.

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The Echidna
is **Near Threatened***

*at the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) regional level