

# SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA

## Short Beaked Echidna, *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

### Head and body

30-45cmmm

### Weight

2-7kg

### Identification

A short stocky body covered in sharp spines, a distinctive snout and a specialised tongue. Its belly and legs are covered in coarse fur which lacks spines.

### Behaviour

Echidnas are mostly active at dawn and dusk and nocturnal in the Top End. A shy and mostly solitary creature with overlapping home ranges. They shelter in old burrows, caves, rock falls and hollow logs.

### Reproduction

One of only 3 species of egg laying mammals known as monotremes. Mating occurs July-August where females develop a temporary pouch. A single egg is then laid directly into the pouch which hatches 10days later.

### Habitat

Found throughout Australia with no particular habitat requirement other than ants and termites.



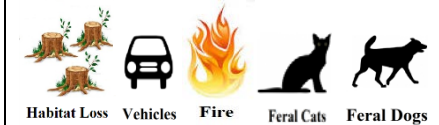
## NT Conservation Status



## Distribution



## Threats



Spines



Defence



Puggles



Conservation