

Echidna

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SUMMERLAND POINT, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

The echidna is one of the two egg-laying mammals in Australia.

The echidna varies in colour because if it lives in a hot climate it is light brown but in the cooler south the echidnas are a darker brown. All echidnas have quills all over their backs.

An echidna's snout can grow to within 6 cm to 8 cm. Echidnas have sharp claws to whip up logs so they can reach termites with their long tongues. An echidna's mouth is upside down and their snout is at the end. Most adult echidnas vary from 35 cm to 53 cm. Male echidnas can weigh up to 6 kg and females weigh up to 4.5 kg. Some people might think that echidnas don't have tails but they do - they are stubby and hairless.

