



Echidna

Echidnas belong to the family **Tachyglossidae** and, together with the **platypus**, are the only living **mammals** that **lay eggs**. In effect, they evolved between 20 and 50 million years ago from a platypus-like aquatic monotreme. In spite of this ancestry, echidnas have adapted to life on **land**, where a few species find their staple food – **ants** and **termites**. However, some trace of their ancestors' **swimming skills** must have remained in their DNA, as echidnas are talented swimmers and are known to journey to water in order to bathe and groom themselves. Even though the echidna's biotopes are concentrated in **Australia** and **New Guinea**, its name is of Greek origin, as this animal was named after a creature from **Greek mythology** who was half-woman and half-snake on account of its being an egg-laying mammal.



Click on the Pictures for Three **VIDEOS** on This Animal