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SNAP! AN ECHIDNA



Echidnas are iconic native Australian animals. But we know very little about their wild populations as they are extremely hard to find.

We want to learn more about echidnas!

Where they are, what they are doing, if they are healthy – so we can work towards their conservation.

How can you help?

Many of you have seen wild echidnas (sometimes even in your own backyard!) and taken photos or videos of them.

The next time you spot an echidna take a photo of it **using our app!** And we can start filling in the knowledge gaps about our beautiful echidnas.



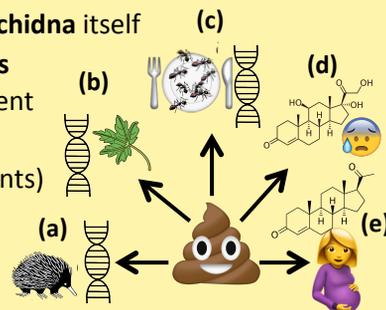
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POO...REALLY?

Don't just look for echidnas... keep an eye out for their poo too! **And send it to us!**

Why? There's a lot of cool stuff in echidna poo. Like:

- (a) DNA from the **echidna** itself
- (b) DNA from **plants** in it's environment
- (c) DNA from **food** it's eaten (e.g. ants)
- (d) Hormones that indicate **stress**
- (e) Hormones that indicate **pregnancy**



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HOW TO SPOT ECHIDNA POO



Echidna poo is very distinctive compared to other native animals. It's long and cylinder in shape and quite large too! You can see it's size next to a 5c coin.



EchidnaCSI

Echidna Conservation Science Initiative

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WHAT DO WE DO?

We store the poo in a large -80 °C freezer to keep the DNA and hormones stable.



We use **liquid nitrogen** to crush up our samples- releasing the DNA and hormones – keeping it cold so the molecules don't break down.



Analysing the different DNA and hormones from the poo will tell us about the echidna's life – who it is, what it's eating, where it's been and if it's healthy!

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Download our app by searching for 'Echidna CSI' in the App Store or on Google Play

You can follow and contact us on:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/EchidnaCSI

Website:

www.grutznerlab.weebly.com/echidna-csi.html

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