

ABOUT HEDGEHOGS

- hedgehogs are small spiny mammals found all across the world
- The spines on the backs of hedgehogs are made up of thousands of hollow hairs, called quills, that are designed to protect them from predators
- When threatened, a hedgehog will curl up into a tight ball, exposing only its spines to potential attackers
- Hedgehogs are natural pest controllers, feeding on insects and other small invertebrates that can cause damage to plants and crops



Where in the world?

- There are over 16 species of hedgehogs found worldwide
- Long-eared hedgehogs inhabit areas from Libya to the Mediterranean and even Mongolia.
- They can be found in various habitats and tend to favor areas with citrus, grapes, carob, and vegetables in Cyprus.

DID YOU KNOW?

Long-eared hedgehogs in Cyprus have been known to fight off snakes, including Blunt-nose vipers

DID YOU KNOW?

The Latin name for Long eared hedgehogs, *Hemiechinus auritus* *Hemiechinus auritus dorotheae*, means 'half sea urchin with long ears'

HEDGEHOGS OF CYPRUS



DPL00056

LONG-EARED HEDGEHOG

HEMIECHINUS AURITUS DOROTHEAE

Informational leaflet



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Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre

Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Ακρωτηρίου



Vector Ecology & Applied Entomology Group



DLP: 00056

References found at

<https://martinoulab.weebly.com/team.html>



WHERE YOU CAN FIND THEM



IN GARDENS

You can find hedgehogs in a variety of habitats, including woodlands and gardens. Hedgehogs are primarily insectivores and can often be found foraging for food at night. If you want to attract hedgehogs to your garden, you can provide them with shelter and food, such as mealworms, fruits and vegetables



IN NATURE

In Cyprus they can be found in the mountainous regions of the island, as well as forests, grasslands, and agricultural areas. Despite being common in Cyprus, they are considered vulnerable. Conservation efforts would greatly help their survival

LONG-EARED HEDGEHOG

- Long eared hedgehogs are nocturnal
- Their ears are nearly 50% larger than ears of other hedgehogs species
- They hibernate in the winter months and remain inactive
- Long-eared hedgehogs have great senses of hearing and smell that they use to hunt out food and detect predators
- They prefer to forage in the early evening and will travel up to 9 km during the night in search of food



Although commonly found in Cyprus, like many hedgehog species their numbers are in decline. This is because they are threatened by anthropogenic pressures. The rapid expansion of the road network, the destruction of the natural environment and pesticides are the most common threats in Cyprus

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



LEAVE THEM

The best way to help hedgehogs when you see them is to leave them alone. Often interactions with people can cause unnecessary stress



CHECK BUSHES

Before gardening, check for hedgehog nests. Hedgehogs typically hibernate from November to mid-March. Look for piles of leaves, twigs, and grass in out-of-the-way places where hedgehogs may be



REPORT SIGHTING

If you see any hedgehogs while out and about, you can use apps such as iNaturalist to report sightings

