

Background



ΜΟΝΑΔΑ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ
ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝ ΚΑΙ
ΤΗΝ ΑΕΙΦΟΡΟ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ



Akrotiri Environmental
Education Centre
Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Ακρωτηρίου



The Cypriot hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus dorotheae*) is a long-eared small, nocturnal mammal that feeds on invertebrates and plants. Threats to hedgehogs include road collisions, parasites, and habitat loss. Our project in Cyprus aims to increase our understanding around hedgehog behaviour and the threats they face by monitoring their populations using the tunnel method



Tunnels

How the tunnels work:

- The tunnels will be placed in a quiet area where the hedgehogs will be attracted by the food lures.
- The hedgehogs will enter the tunnels to eat the food where they will walk across animal safe ink pads, They will then walk across the white sheets of A4 paper where they will leave footprints as evidence of their presence.
- Every time footprints are left; the paper will need to be replaced (paper will be provided)
- Food lure that are consumed will need to be replaced. Initial food will be provided however to continue the activity it is recommended that cat food is used as a lure (wet or dry). These can easily be found in local supermarkets and pet stores.

Record Results

- Record hedgehog footprints in tunnel traps as often as you can with time and notes
- Please upload hedgehog sightings to www.inaturalist.org and any tunnel results to

kpe-akrotiri@cytanet.com.cy;
thethreemosquiteers@gmail.com
 Viber/WhatsApp στο 99580630)

- Be cautious around hedgehogs, observe from a distance, do not disturb or handle them to ensure their safety
- Hedgehogs are vital for ecosystem balance, respect their space and natural behaviour, as they are shy and solitary

iNaturalist link



- Do not feed hedgehogs:**
- Dairy products
 - Sugary or salty foods
 - Raw meat
 - Processed foods or snacks

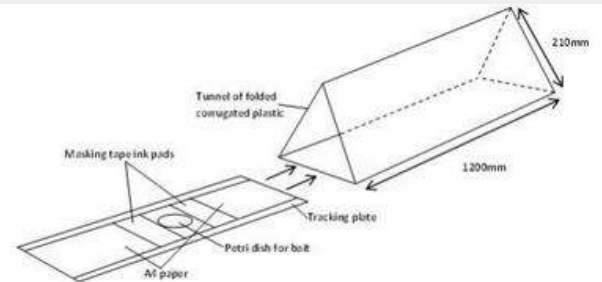


Figure 3. Hedgehog tracking tunnel diagram (adapted by Emily Thomas from Yarnell et al. 2014)

(<https://peoplestrust.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/HEMP.pdf>)

Footprint investigation

Hedgehog footprints are easy to identify. Most simply recognised by their hand like shape. They have a single toe that sticks out at a 45° angle. Adult hedgehogs leave prints around the size of a 50 p coin. You will be able to see the pressure points of the foot as they will make the clearest impression on the paper.



On paper

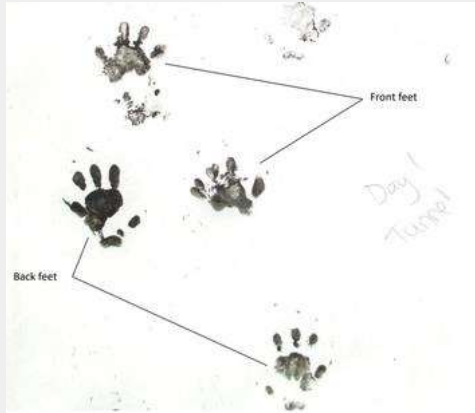


Image taken from Guidance for detecting hedgehogs using footprint tracking tunnels guide (2016) (<https://ptes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Guidance-for-detecting-hedgehogs-using-tracking-tunnels.pdf>)

On paper

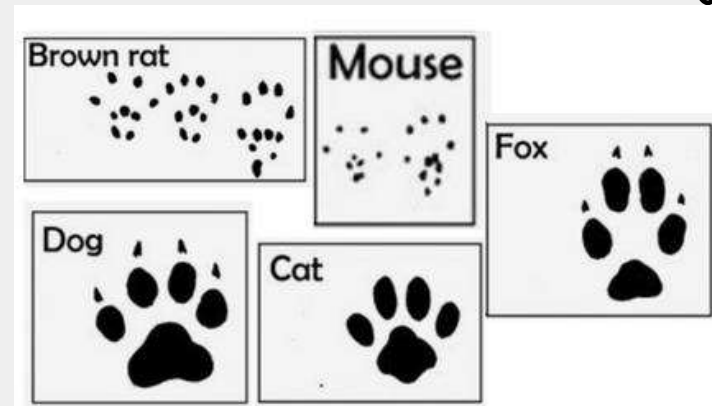
This is an example of what the footprints may look like on the paper, however there are likely to be other footprints of other similar mammals. Here are some examples of what those prints may look like.

Safety in your garden

You are responsible for your own health and safety and should never put yourself or others in a position that could be dangerous when conducting these recordings. If at any point you feel unsafe or in danger, cease the activity and do not complete the activity.

Please take caution of other wildlife that can possibly be near the tunnels and especially attracted to the food lures. Be sure you wear appropriate clothing while conducting the recordings for example long sleeves and boots

Other prints you may see



(<https://www.mammal.org.uk/2022/12/mammal-tracking-in-winter/?hilit=tracking+prints>)