

Abstract

Taxonomy and Ecology of Hedgehog Genus *Hemiechinus*, Order *Eulipotyphla*, Family *Erinaceidae* of District Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

*Sadaf Shaikh, Prof. Dr. G. Sarwar Gachal, Prof. Dr Tahira Jabeen

Department of Zoology University of Sindh, Jamshoro

[*sadafshaikh354@yahoo.com](mailto:sadafshaikh354@yahoo.com) Mobile: 03363949789

The Hedgehog belongs to Class Mammalian, Super Order *Laurasiatheria*, Order *Eulipotyphla*, Family *Erinaceidae* and Genus *Hemiechinus* Fitzinger, 1866. In Sindh, Pakistan Hedgehogs were earlier recorded in xeric/desert ecosystem, especially the aerie plains of Indus River which are extending east up to Choulistan and Thar, including Bahawalpur as well as irrigated areas of Sindh.

Ecologically Hedgehogs mostly observed in sandy, vegetative and muddy area where different kind of plant, barley and soil seems. Such areas showing variety of temperature which have been recorded approximately 20 to 40 degree centigrade. They feed on insects, butterfly, meat and lower mammals etc.

The present study is based on the taxonomy and ecology of the five different species of Hedgehog including *Hemiechinus collaris* Gray, 1830; *Hemiechinus auritus* Blyth, 1845; *Paraechinus micropus* Blyth, 1846; *Paraechinus hypomelas hypomelas* Mountfort, 1969 and *Paraechinus hypomelas jerdoni* Brandt, 1836, which have been recovered from the different localities of District Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan.

During the present studies total of 107 specimens have been recorded, among them only 05 different species of Hedgehog have been identified viz: 25 species of *Hemiechinus collaris* (09 ♀ and ♂♂ 16); 25 species of *Hemiechinus auritus* (10 ♀♀ and 15 ♂♂); 22 species of *Paraechinus hypomelas jerdoni* (12 ♂♂ and 10 ♀♀); 15 species of *Paraechinus hypomelas hypomelas* (09 ♂♂ and 06 ♀♀) and 20 species of *Paraechinus micropus* (13 ♂♂ and 07 ♀♀) respectively.

It was observed that the prevalence of the *Hemiechinus collaris* (23.364%) and *Hemiechinus auritus* (23.364%) was highest followed by the *Paraechinus hypomelas jerdoni* (20.560%) and *Paraechinus micropus* (18.691%) respectively. The minimum prevalence was found for the *Paraechinus hypomelas hypomelas* (14.018%).