

Review Article

Copyright © All rights are reserved by Abd El Aleem Saad Soliman Desoky

# New Record of Long-Eared Hedgehog, *Hemiechinus Auritus* (Gmelin, 1770) in Sohag Governorate, Egypt

Abd El Aleem Saad Soliman Desoky\*

Plant protection Department (Agricultural Zoology), Faculty of Agriculture, Sohag University, Egypt

\*Corresponding author: Abd El Aleem Saad Soliman Desoky, Plant protection Department (Agricultural Zoology), Faculty of Agriculture, Sohag University, Egypt.

Received Date: June 12, 2019

Published Date: June 19, 2019

## Abstract

The study aims to identify new types of rodents or small mammals in Sohag Governorate. This study showed the new record of long-eared hedgehog, *Hemiechinus auritus* in the Village of Awlad Nasir-Naga Tarkhan, north of Sohag Governorate. It's the first record for it in Sohag Governorate (Upper Egypt).

## Introduction

*Hemiechinus collaris* is a burrowing and nocturnal species, recorded near water and agricultural landscapes [1,2]. This species is useful indirectly to human being as it consumes insects, termites and scorpions. While *H. collaris* does not damage agriculture and lives on the edge of agriculture land or near desert and this species has no conflict with human. Long-eared hedgehog avoid high heat; strictly nocturnal in summer, emerging at dusk and feed for 5 to 6 hours [2]. They excavate their burrows; burrow entrance is covered under bushes and shrub; when ground is hard it may be less than one than one foot. In sandy and softer soil, the burrow may be more than 5 feet. The burrow leads to wider chamber, inside a small chamber [3].

The burrow has sloped about one foot below the surface. *H. collaris* is unsocial species and does not share a burrow with the same species [2].

This species food is insects, insect larvae, lizards, birds' eggs, cannibalism is also recorded in this species; female eat their own offspring; while adult eat their young hedgehog [4]. This species also attacked on the dangerous prey (i.e. venomous snakes) and eat them [3,5]. *Hemiechinus auritus* is distributed in Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, USSR, Iran, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mongolia, China [6].

## Materials and Methods

During the identification of rodents in Sohag Governorate, we noticed the presence of a hedgehog in Sohag District at the Village

of Awlad Nasir - Naga Tarkhan at the north of the Sohag District about 2km. Samples were collected for breeding in the laboratory and identification. Identification of the hedgehog were done using different keys constructed by Anderson [7], Flower [8], Wassif [9], Setzer [10] and Osborn & Helmy [11].

## Results and Discussion

These animals were observed in the Village of Awlad Nasir - Naga Tarkhan, north of Sohag Governorate, at the period from afternoon to the sunset. Especially after the sunset because it's activity at night. These animals appeared after the harvest period of the wheat crop in burrows under the piles of corn, sorghum & palm trees and on the sides of the agricultural canals, feeding on soil insects, grass and some pests. we transferred them to the agricultural animal laboratory for breeding and classified according to the different keys of the taxonomy in the animal kingdom as follows:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Erinaceomorpha (Insectivora)

Family: Erinaceidae

Genus: *Hemiechinus*

Species *Hemiechinus auritus*

Common name

Long-eared hedgehog (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus*).

The results similar with Flower [8], Wassif [9], Setzer [10] and Osborn & Helmy [11]. The long-eared hedgehog, *Hemiechinus auritus* was collected from Kawm El-Aaqula area, 15 km west of El-Burg. Two specimens were caught alive from their burrow under the vegetation, collected this hedgehog from Balti and El-Burg. The sub specific status of this hedgehog is Aegyptus. By the analysis of stomach contents, insects formed the only food item. So, it is recorded before, in the Nile Delta, but This research is the first record of long-eared hedgehog from to the south in Sohag Governorate (Upper Egypt). We suggest that more work and surveys should be done to know the distribution of all mammalian species in the region and their impact on the environment, whether useful or harmful.

### Acknowledgement

None.

### Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

### References

- Molur S, C Srinivasulu, B Srinivasulu, S Walker, PO Nameer, et al. (2005) Status of South Asian non-volant small mammals: Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) Workshop report. Zoo Outreach Organisation, Comibatore, India.
- Roberts TJ (1997) *The Mammals of Pakistan*. Oxford University Press. New York, p. 525.
- Krishna D, I Parakash (1955) Hedgehog of the desert of Rajistan. *JBNHS* 53: 38-43.
- Prakash I (1955) Cannibalism in Hedgehogs. *JBNHS*. 52: 100-109.
- Mirza ZB (1969) *The Small mammals of West Pakistan*. Central Urdu Board. Lahore, Pakistan.
- Çolak E, N Yigit, M Sozen, S Özkurt (1997) A Study on the Long-eared hedgehog, *Hemiechinus auritus* (Gmelin, 1770) (Mammalia: Insectivora) in Turkey, *Tr J of Zoology* 22: 131-136.
- Anderson J (1903) *Zoology of Egypt. Mammalia* (revised and completed by WE De Winton) Hugh Ress Ltd, London, 67: 266-267.
- Flower S (1932) Notes on the recent mammals of Egypt, with a list of the species recorded from that Kingdom. *Proc Zool Soc, London*, 102(2): 369-450.
- Wassif K (1995) *Guide to Mammals of Natural Protectorates in Egypt*. National Biodiversity Unit No 4, Egypt Envir Aff Agency (EEAA), Cairo, p. 85.
- Setzer H (1957) The hedgehogs and shrews (Insectivora) of Egypt. *J Egypt Publ Hlth Ass* 32: 1-17.
- Osborn D, Helmy I (1980) *The contemporary land mammals of Egypt (including Sinai)*. Field Museum of Natural History.