



**Cover:** A short-beaked echidna, *Tachyglossus aculeatus acanthion*, from south-west Western Australia. This monotreme has a unique morphology, a highly specialised myrmecophagous diet and an unusual mode of locomotion. Clemente et al. (pp. 3271–3283) examined the biomechanics, activity and ecology of short-beaked echidnas in their natural environment. Despite a low stride length and frequency, echidnas excavate substitutional areas of soil as a result of the considerable periods of time they spend digging. Because of their broad distribution and relative abundance compared with other mammalian bioturbators in Australia, echidnas presumably have an important ecosystem function. Photo credit: Christine Cooper.

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