

## Blackheaded pasture cockchafer (*Aphodius tasmaniae* (Hope))

**Description:** Larvae are 'C' shaped and have six legs with a black to brown head capsule, when fully grown they are up to 20 mm long. Their body colour is grey when they are feeding and change to white-yellow as they mature. The adult is a dark brown to black beetle about 10 mm long with parallel sides and a shovel-like head. They fly and lay eggs during late January to March and are strongly attracted to lights on hot and still summer evenings.

**Damage:** Larvae damage crops in late autumn and early winter chewing off leaves and taking them into their tunnels.

**Monitoring:** Larvae live underground in tunnels, but come to the surface to feed mainly after rain.

The first larval activity usually follows the first substantial rain after the end of March when they come to the surface and feed on decaying organic matter.

**Management:** Control with a recommended insecticide when the larvae are young, before they begin feeding on green material.



Images: Vic, DPI



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*Aphodius tasmaniae*.