

What's in your dung?

A guide to dung beetle species in the Northern Tablelands.



**DUNG
BEETLE**

Ecosystem Engineers



REGIONAL GUIDE

Northern Tablelands

Northern Tablelands

Dung beetle species that are commonly found in the region.

Introduced



Aphodius
fimetarius
Dweller



Euoniticellus
africanus
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
fulvus
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
intermedius
Tunneler



Liatongus
militaris
Tunneler



Onitis
alexis
Tunneler



Onitis
pecuarius
Tunneler



Onthophagus
binodis
Tunneler



Sisyphus
rubrus
Roller

Natives



Onthophagus
australis



Onthophagus
chepara



Onthophagus
dandalu

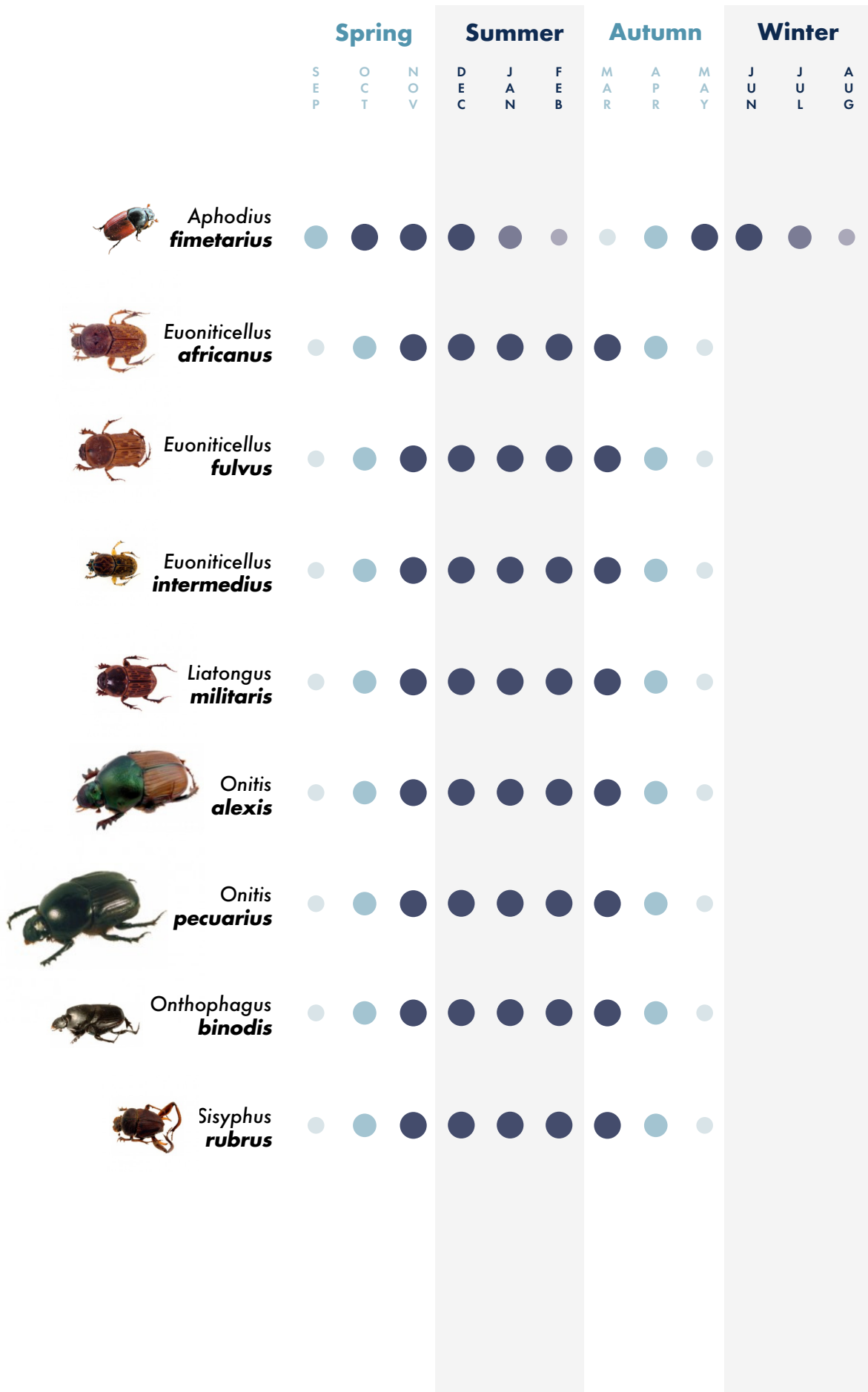


Onthophagus
granulatus

Note: Up to 500 native and non-native species of dung beetles exist in Australia.
This guide is limited to species you are most likely to find in this region.

Seasonal activity

When dung beetles are most likely to be found in dung (in your region)



Aphodius fimetarius



Dweller

Colour orange-red ribbed elytra with a black head and thorax

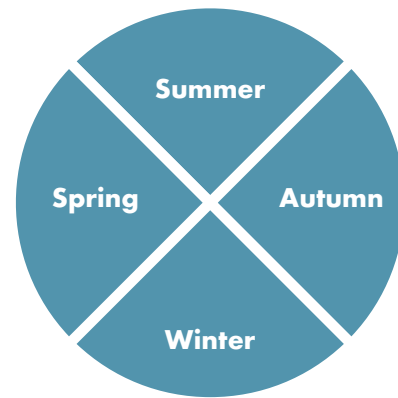
Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly activity entire year

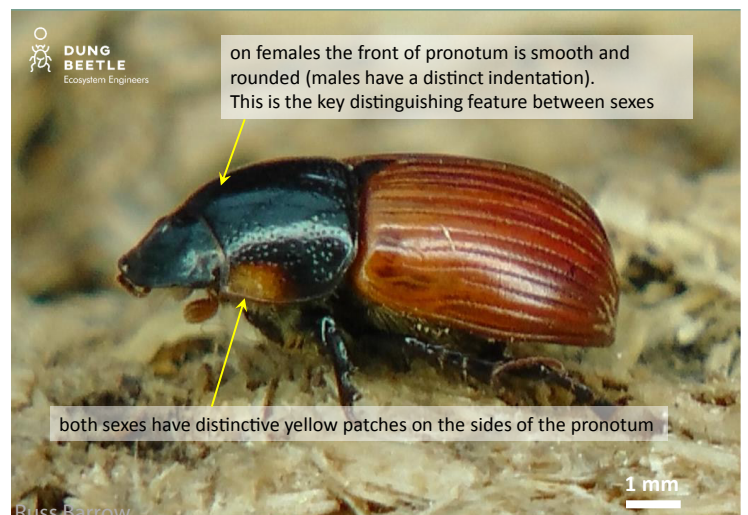
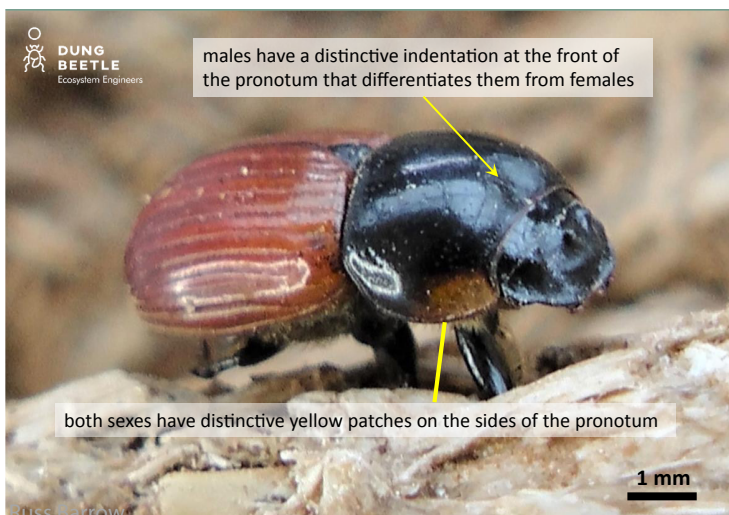
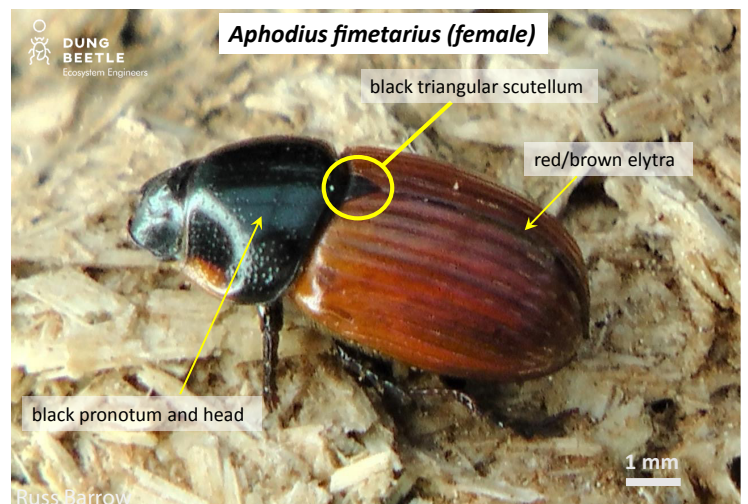
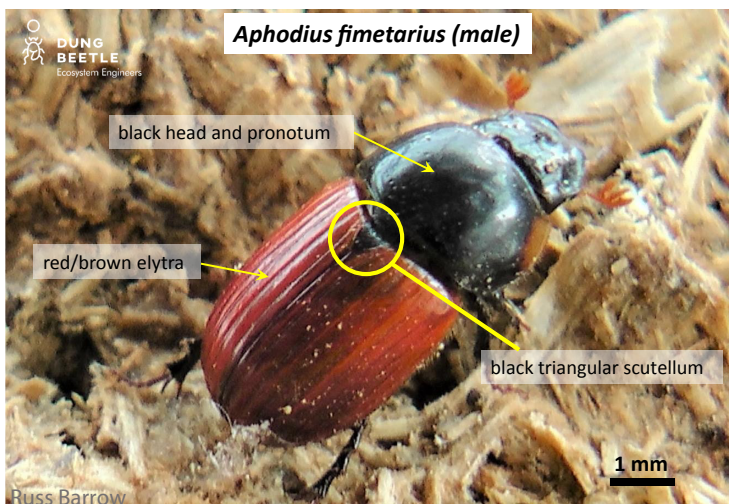
Distribution southern Australia including TAS

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 6 mm ↔ 9 mm



Euoniticellus africanus



Tunneler

Colour light to dark brown with faint diamond shape on pronotum. Two shiny black triangles on pronotum

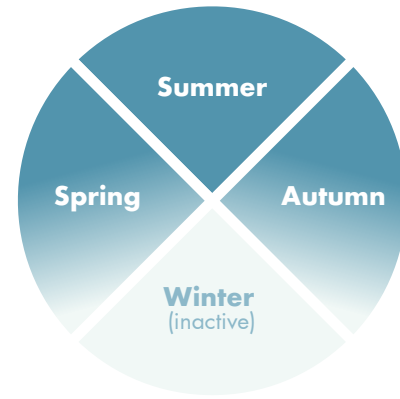
Horns none

Flight time day

Distribution southeast QLD, eastern NSW

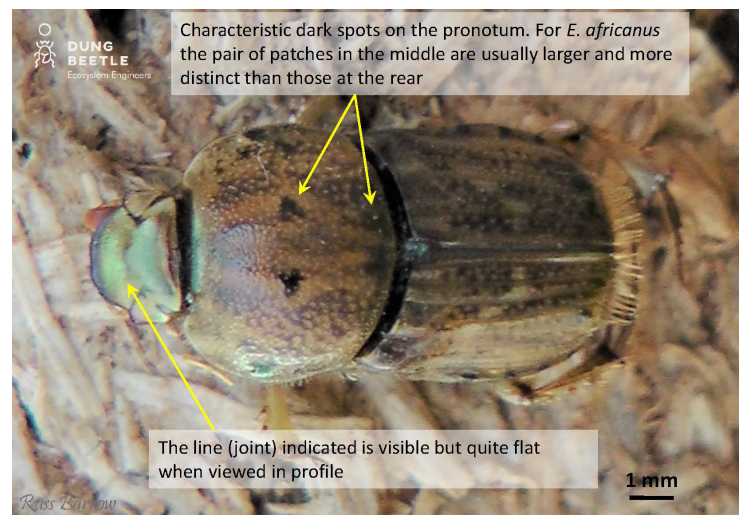
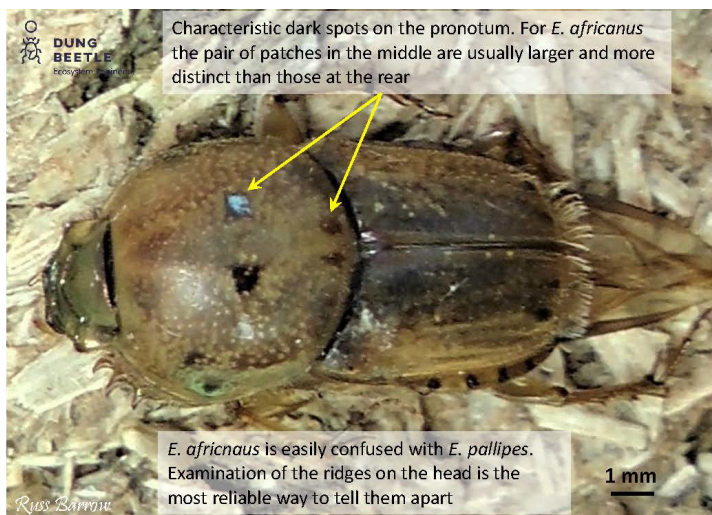
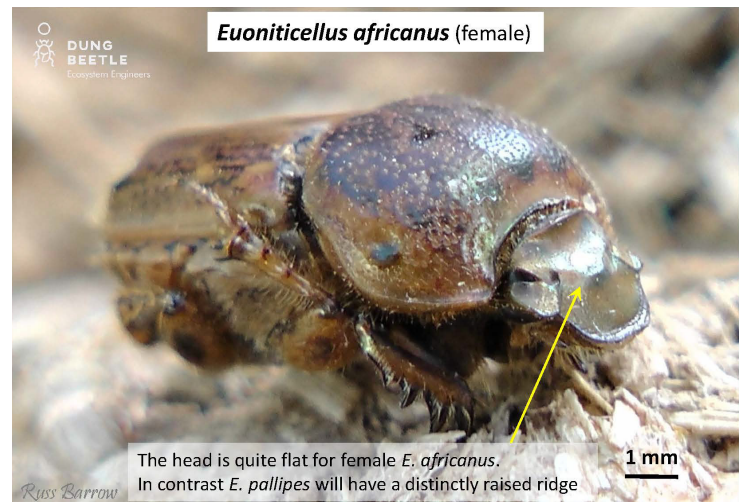
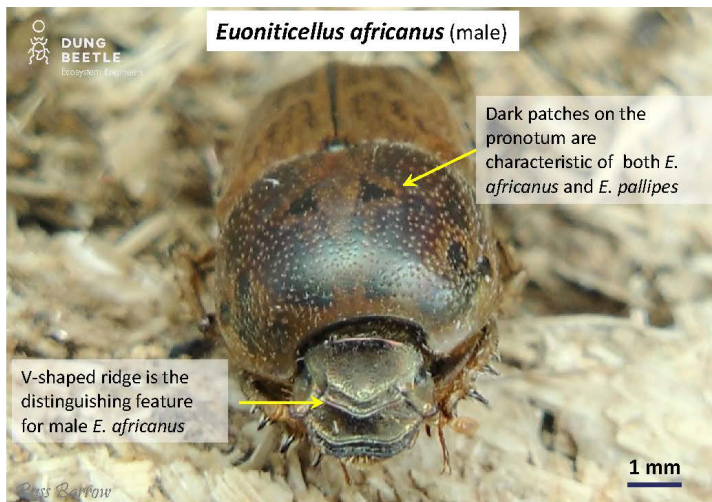
Similar species *E. pallipes* female has a small ridge between eyes, but *E. africanus* has none. *E. pallipes* male has shallowly arched ridge between eyes, which is strongly curved in *E. africanus*.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 8 mm ↔ 13 mm



Euoniticellus fulvus



Tunneler

Colour yellow to medium brown, no speckling on pronotum. Wing covers may have dark brown patches but no speckling

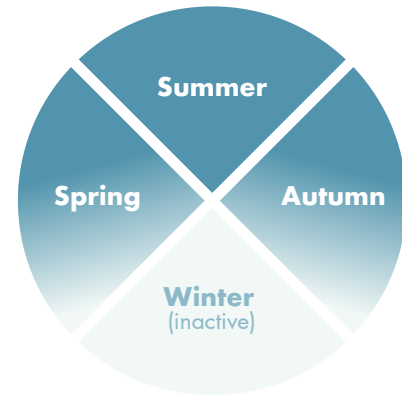
Horns none; males have two ridges at front of head but females have none

Flight time day


Distribution WA, SA, VIC, NSW, TAS

Similar species Similar to other species of *Euoniticellus*, but its small size and lack of markings set it apart.

Seasonal activity

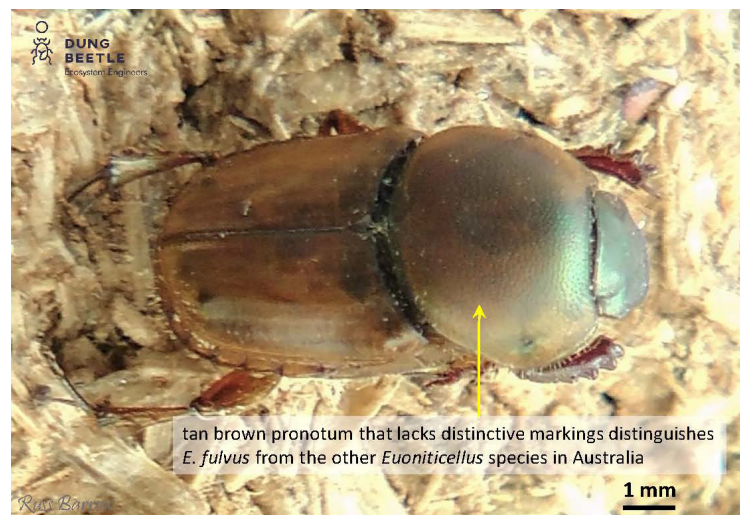
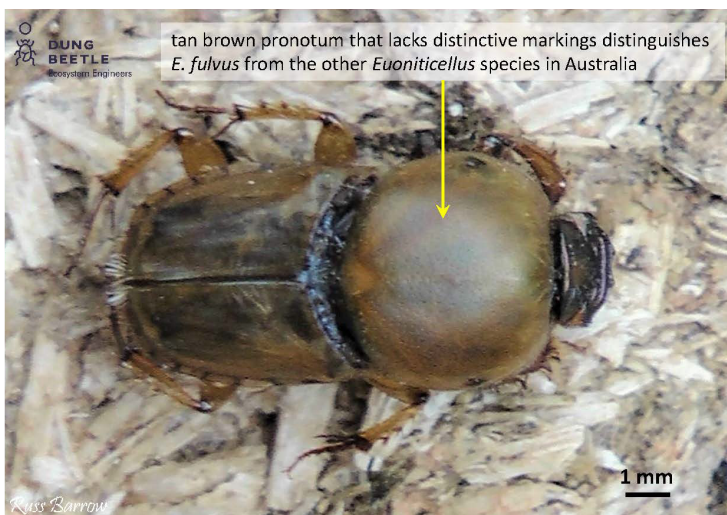
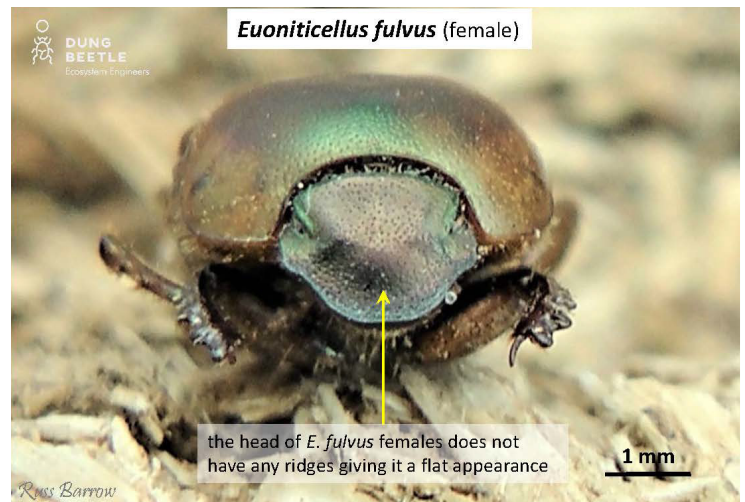
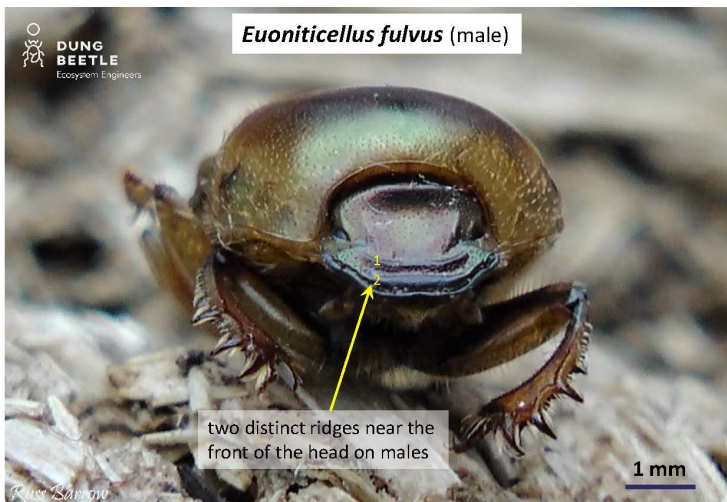


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 8 mm  12 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



Euoniticellus intermedius



Tunneler

Colour yellow–brown, with diamond pattern on pronotum

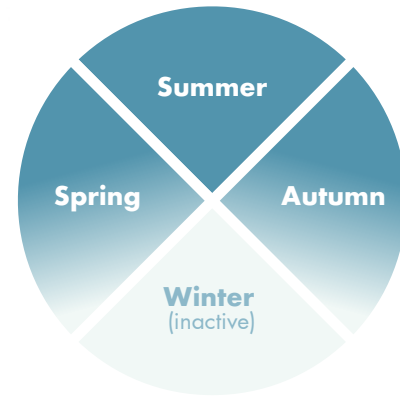
Horns males have a blunt horn in middle of head; females have a ridge between the eyes

Flight time day

Distribution throughout Australia except very dry and southernmost regions

Similar species similar to other species of *Euoniticellus*, but the distinctive markings on pronotum differentiate it from other species.

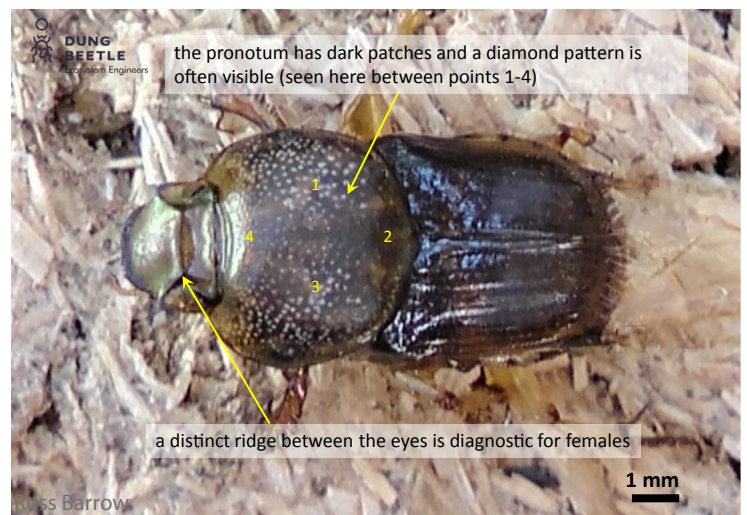
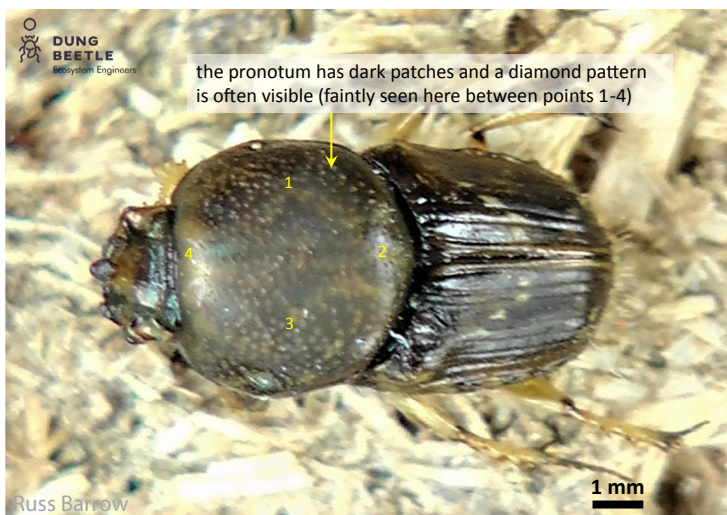
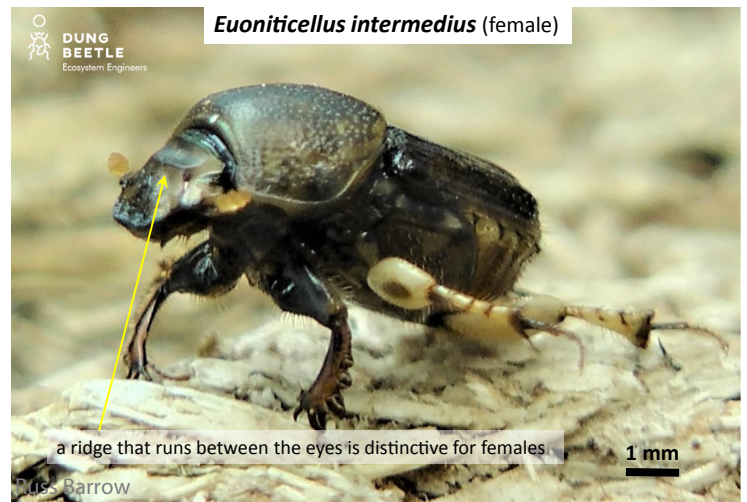
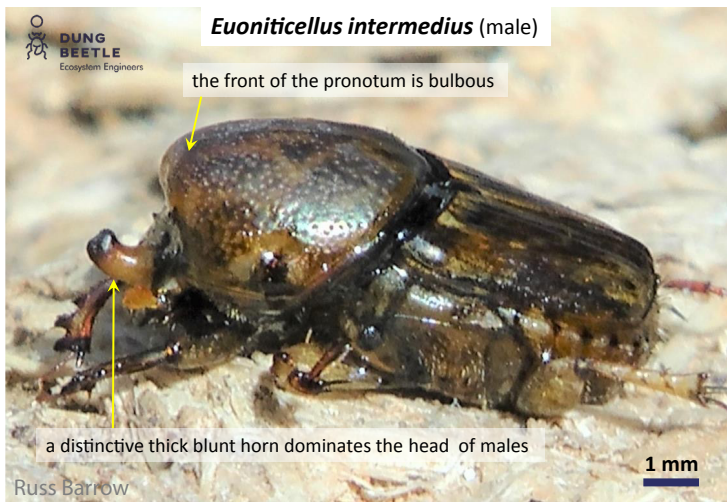
Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 7 mm ↔ 9 mm

Burrowing depth
11 – 19 cm



Liatongus militaris



Tunneler

Colour brown to dark brown; distinctive black broken stripes on wing covers. Yellow 'shoulder patches' and a dark oval patch on the top and bottom of each femur.

Horns none

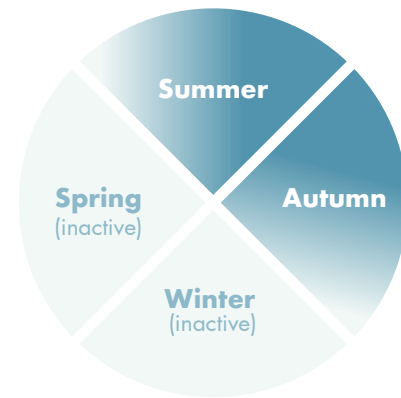
Flight time day

Yearly Activity spring to autumn

Distribution QLD, NT, northeast NSW

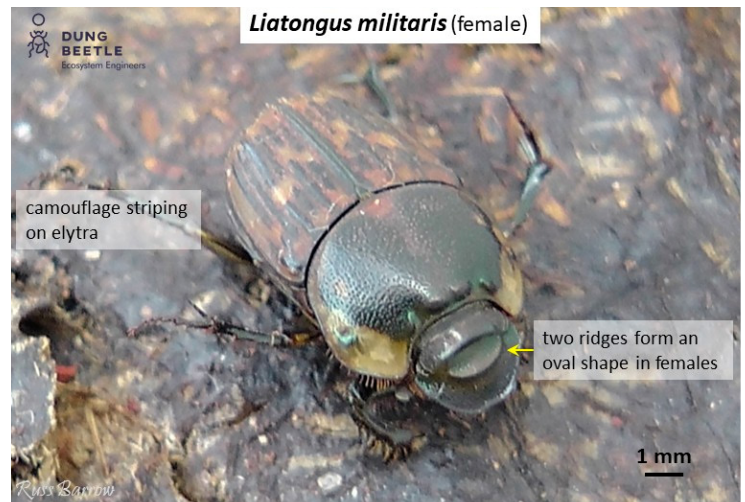
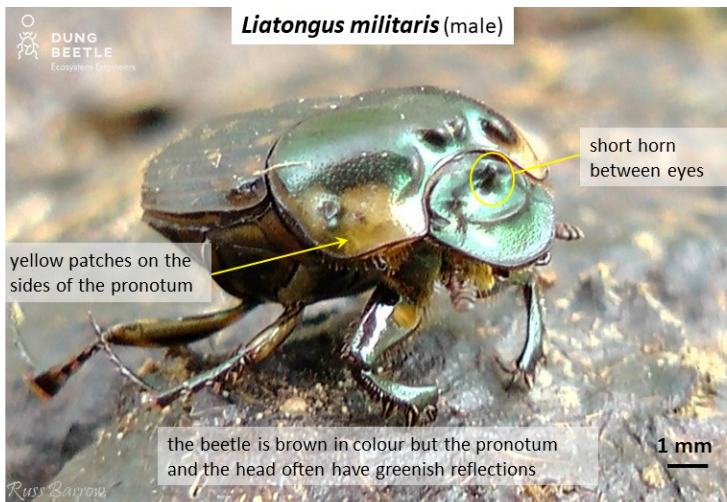
Similar species unlikely to be confused with other species.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 8 mm ↔ 10 mm



Onitis alexis



Tunneler

Colour green/coppery pronotum, light brown wing covers

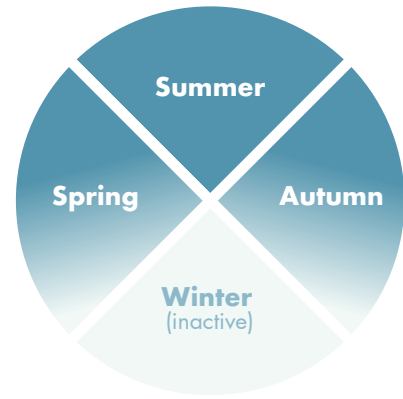
Horns both sexes have a ridge midway between eyes and front of head; female has distinct bump at back of head

Flight time dusk and dawn

Distribution all of Australia except TAS

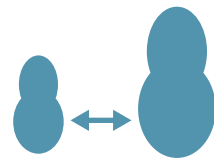
Similar species *Onitis aygulus* is larger and has an unequal double spur on hind femur of male (single spur in *O. alexis*).

Seasonal activity



Active Inactive

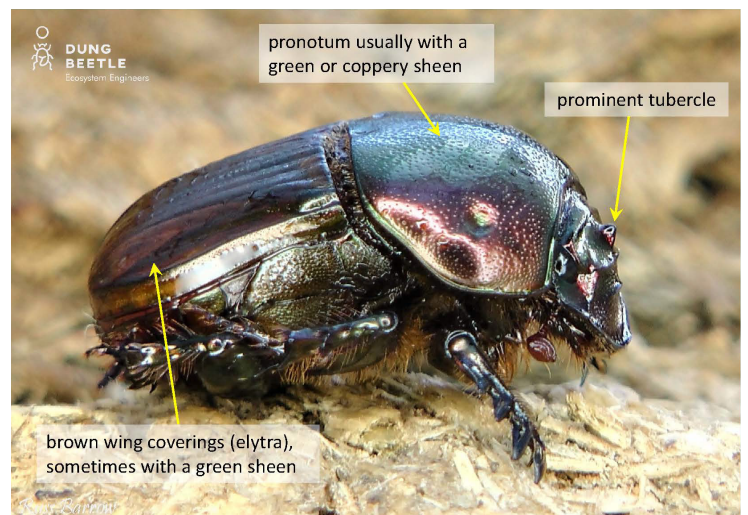
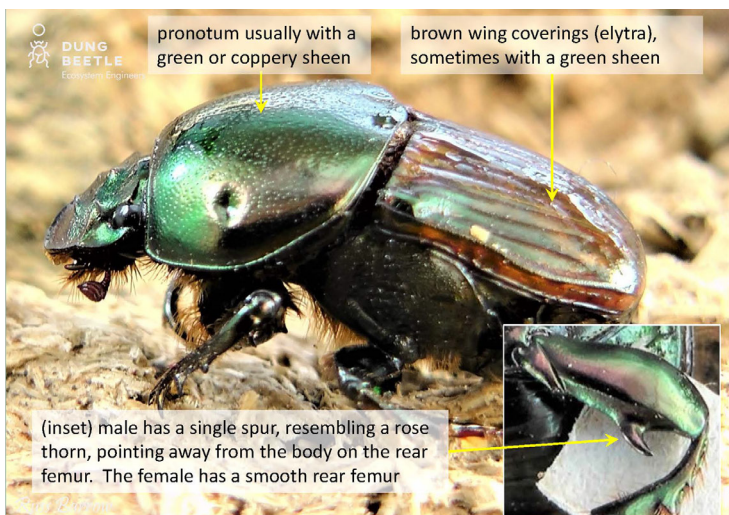
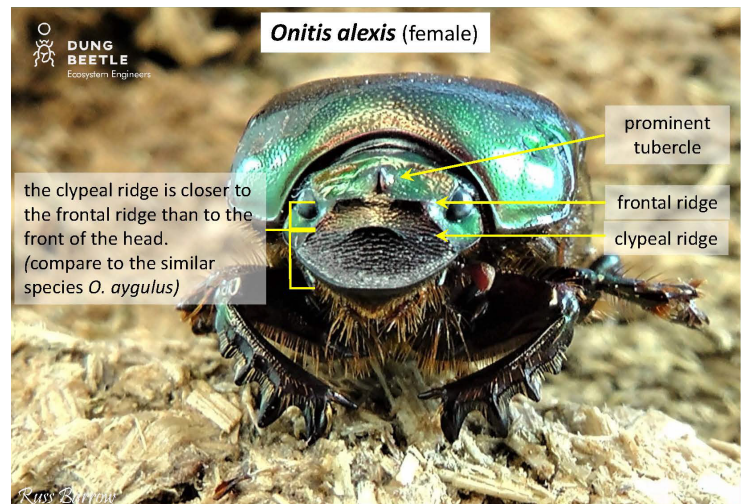
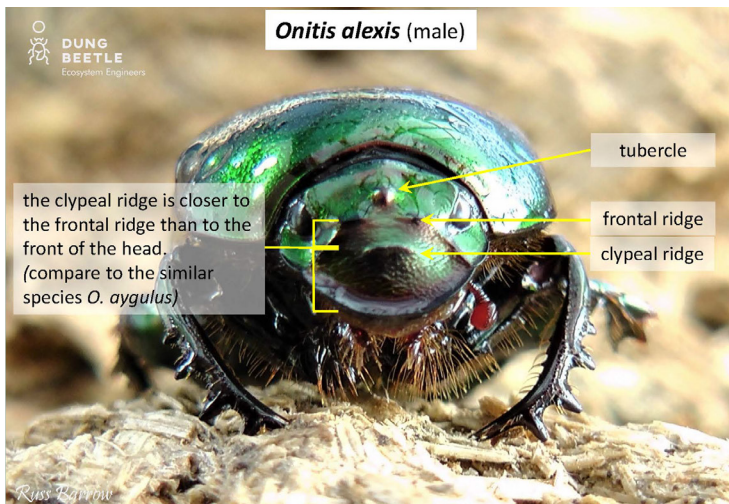
Size: 13 mm



20 mm

Burrowing depth

20 – 65 cm



Onitis pecuarius



Tunneler

Colour dark brown/black, sometimes with brown/pinkish sheen

Horns none

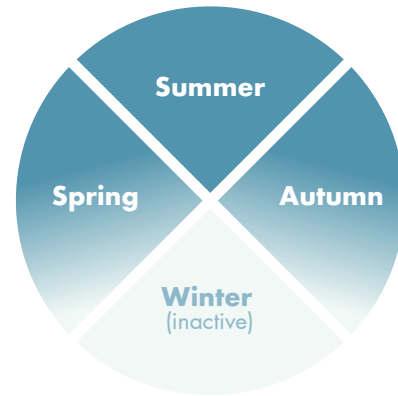
Flight time dusk and dawn

Yearly activity late spring to autumn

Distribution southeast QLD, eastern NSW

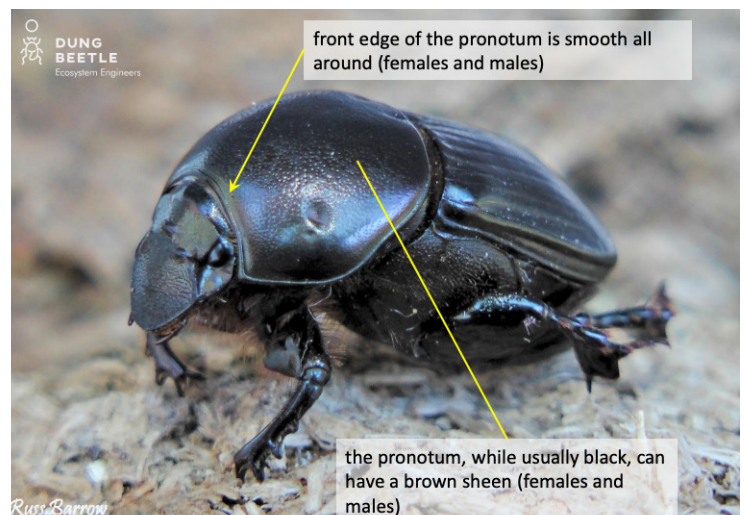
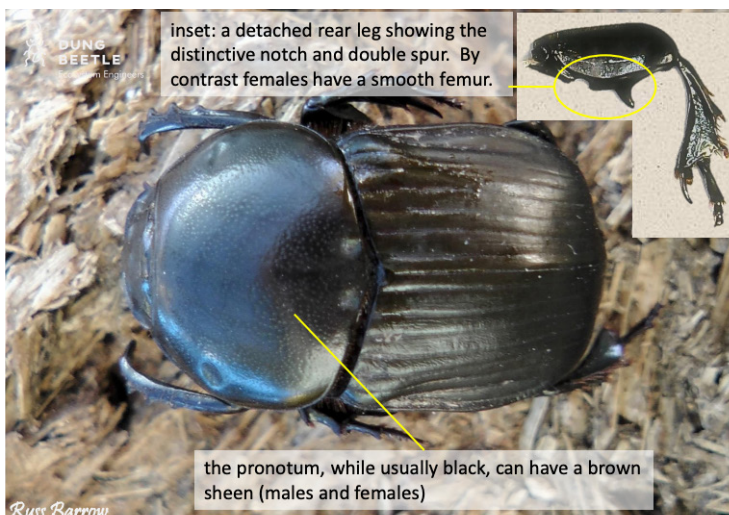
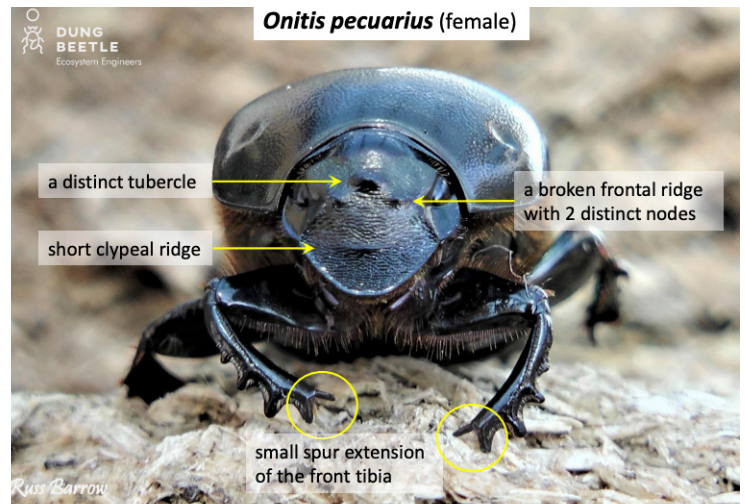
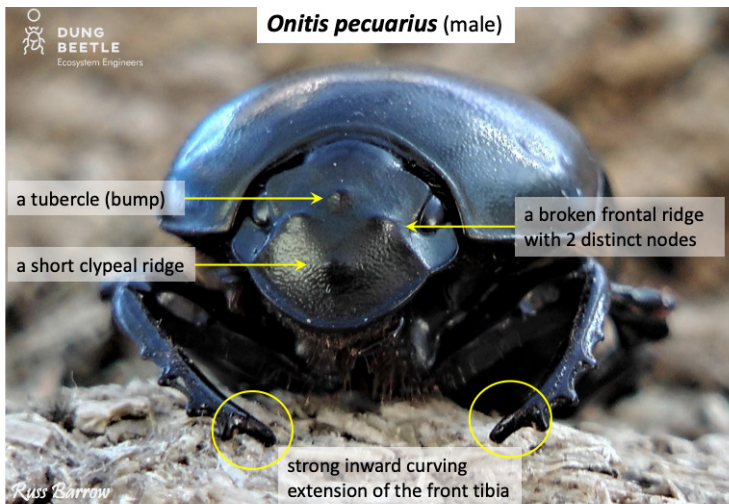
Similar species Can easily be confused with *O. viridulus* (p. 21), but *O. viridulus* may have a greenish sheen. Also, *O. viridulus* is found mostly in NT and QLD whereas *O. pecuarius* is found mainly in NSW (small overlap zone in NE NSW and SE QLD).

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: **15 mm** ↔ **20 mm**



Onthophagus binodis



Tunneler

Colour matt black

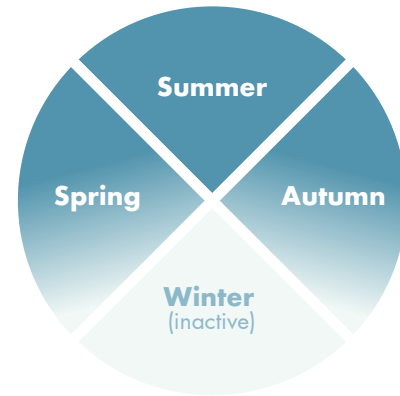
Horns large lobe at front of pronotum (males), smaller in females

Flight time day

Distribution WA, SA, VIC, NSW, TAS, south-east QLD

Similar species female *O. taurus* are similar to female *O. binodis*, but *O. taurus* females are shinier and the front of the pronotum is rounded.

Seasonal activity

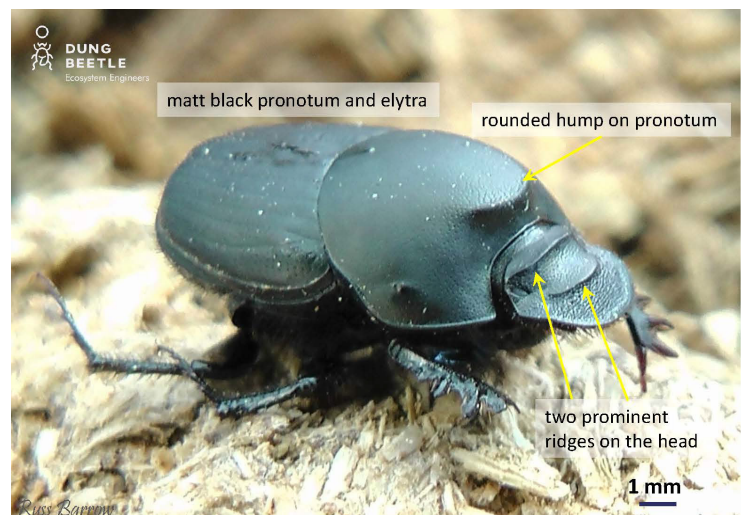
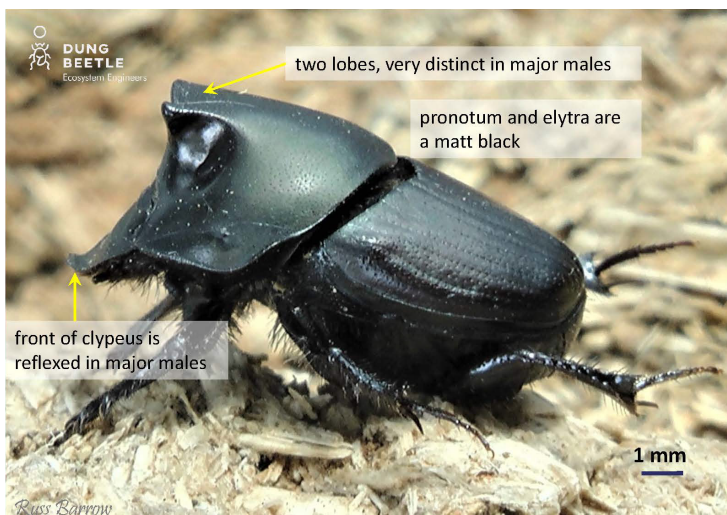
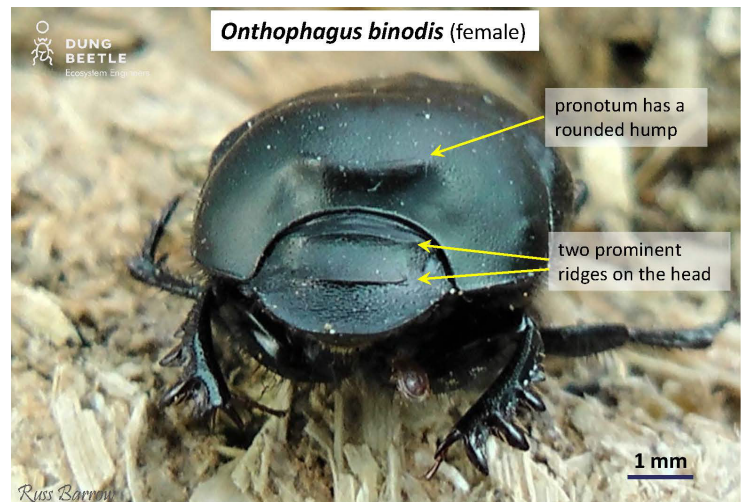
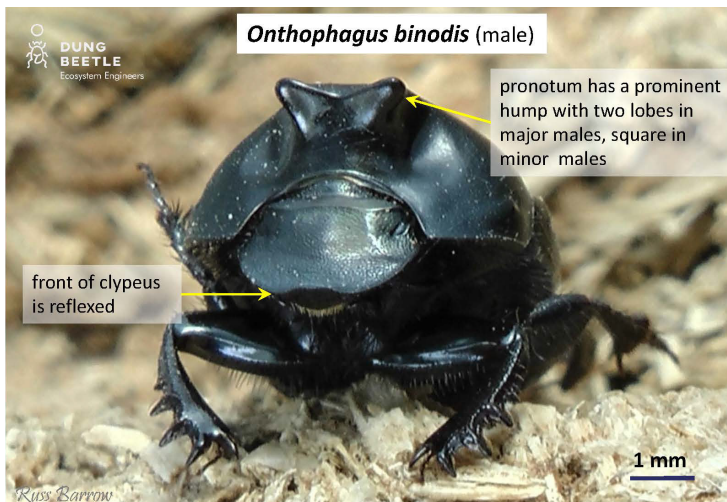


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 11 mm ↔ 13 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



Sisyphus rubrus



Tunneler

Colour light–medium brown w/ long thin legs

Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly activity spring to autumn

Similar species *S. spinipes* is larger and darker. The inside edge of hind femur is rounded in male *S. rubrus* and angled in male *S. spinipes*.



Size: 6 mm ↔ 9 mm



This project is supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme.



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