

# What's in your dung?

A guide to dung beetle species in the South West Victoria.



**DUNG  
BEETLE**

Ecosystem Engineers



REGIONAL GUIDE

**South West Victoria**

# South West VIC

Dung beetle species that are commonly found in the region.

## Introduced



*Aphodius*  
***fimetarius***  
Dweller



*Bubas*  
***bison***  
Tunneler



*Euoniticellus*  
***fulvus***  
Tunneler



*Euoniticellus*  
***pallipes***  
Tunneler



*Geotrupes*  
***spiniger***  
Tunneler



*Onitis*  
***aygulus***  
Tunneler



*Onthophagus*  
***binodis***  
Tunneler



*Onthophagus*  
***taurus***  
Tunneler

## Natives



*Onthophagus*  
***auritus***



*Onthophagus*  
***australis***



*Onthophagus*  
***dandalu***



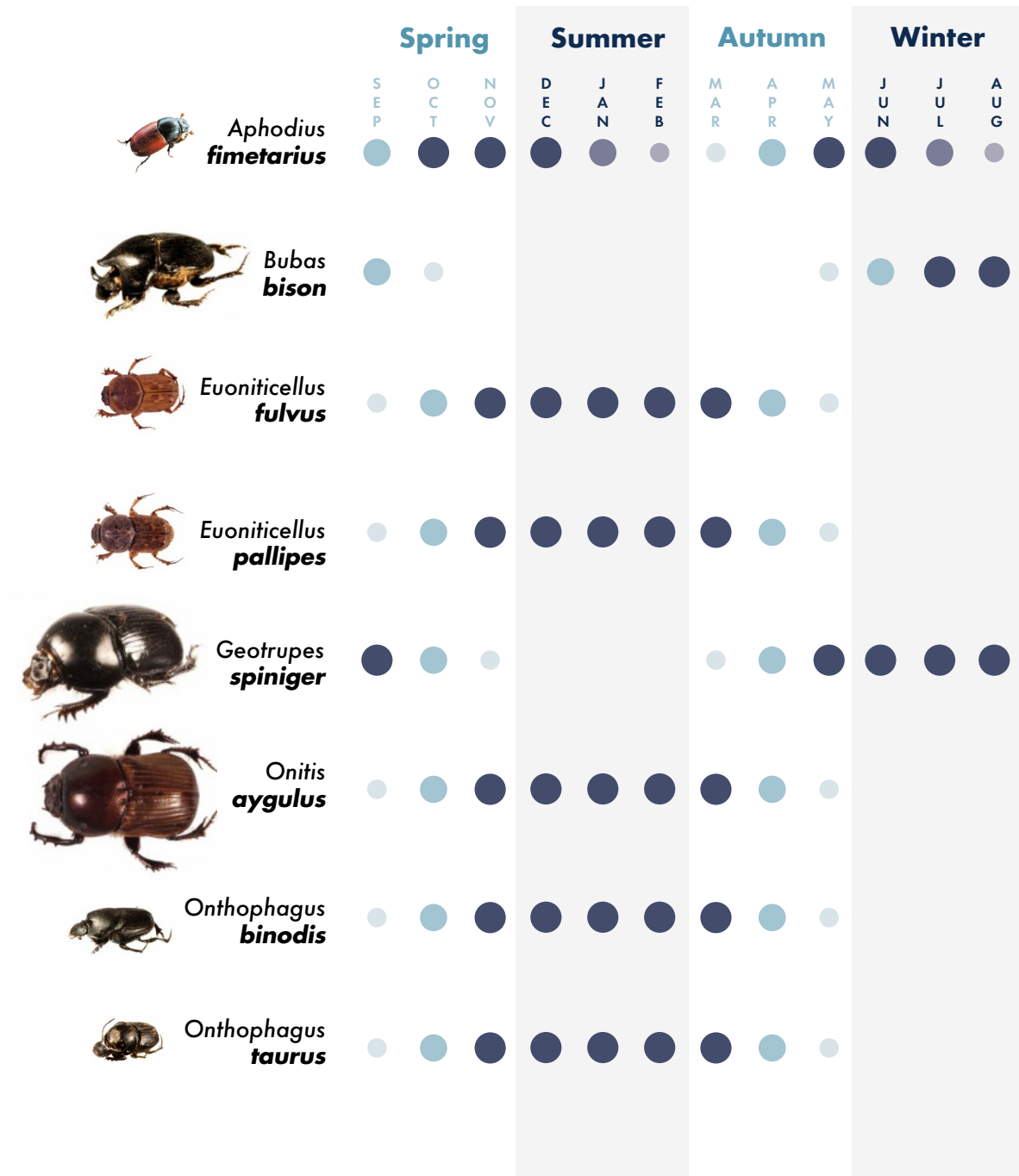
*Onthophagus*  
***granulatus***

Note: Over 500 species of native dung beetles exist in Australia, however only 350 species have been fully identified at this time.

This guide is limited to four species you may find in your 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

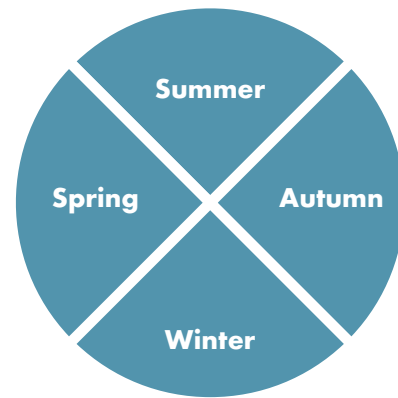
**Horns** none

**Flight time** day

**Yearly Activity** entire year

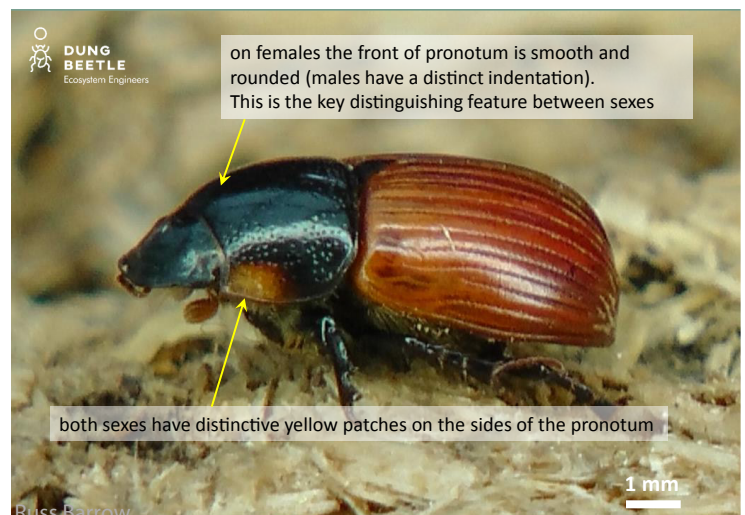
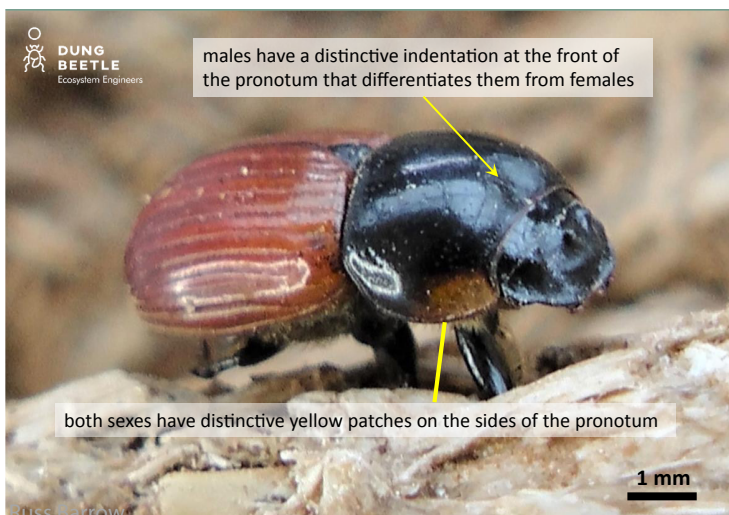
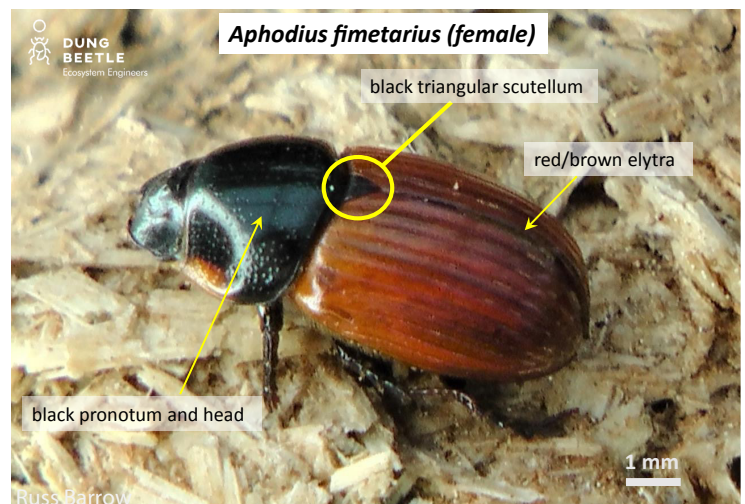
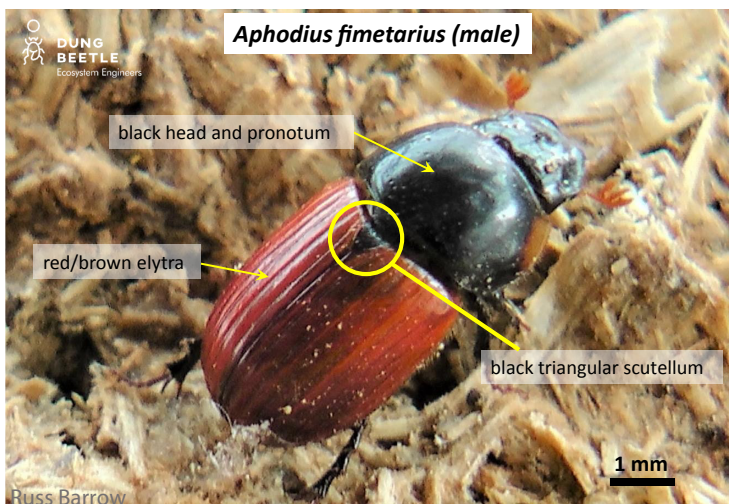
**Distribution** southern Australia including TAS

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

6 mm ↔ 9 mm





# Bubas bison



Tunneler

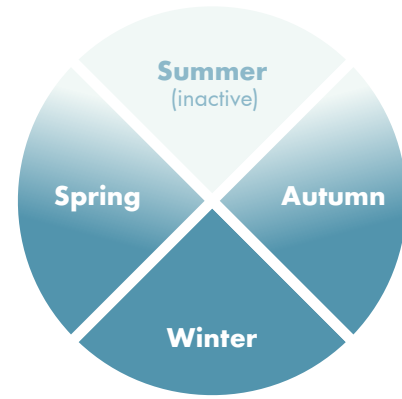
**Colour** shiny black

**Horns** horn on each side of head and horn on pronotum (male); distinct ridge on head between eyes and on pronotum (female)

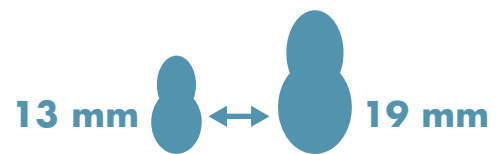
**Flight time** dusk and dawn

**Distribution** WA, SA, VIC, southern NSW

Seasonal activity

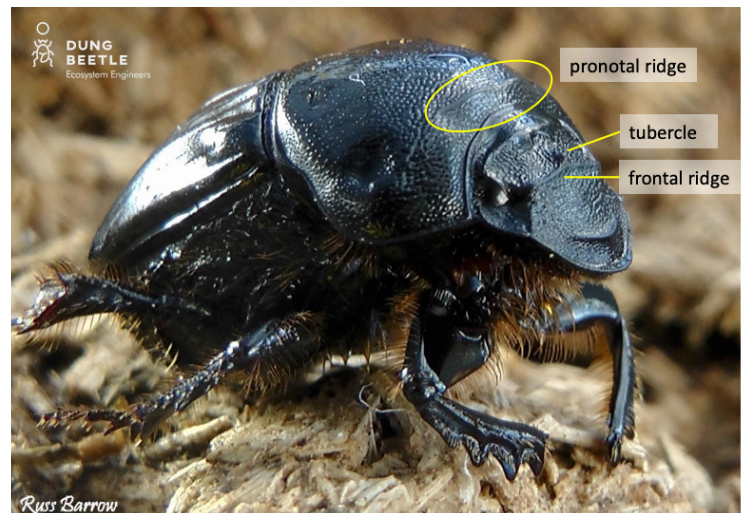
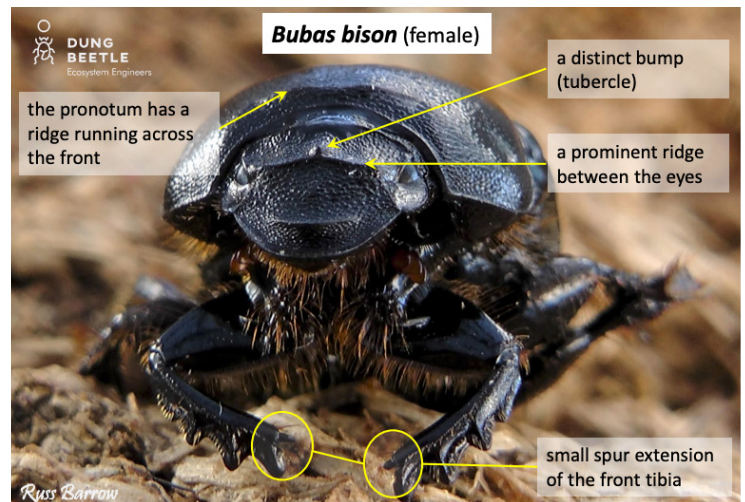
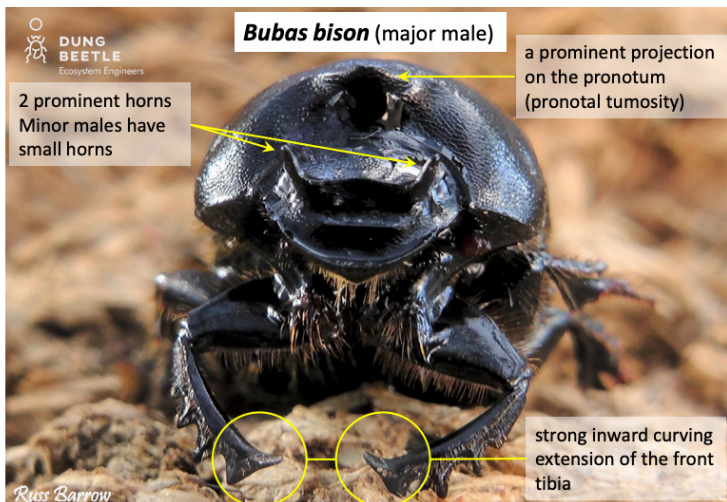


Active Inactive



Burrowing depth

**20 – 65 cm**





# *Euoniticellus fulvus*



Tunneler

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

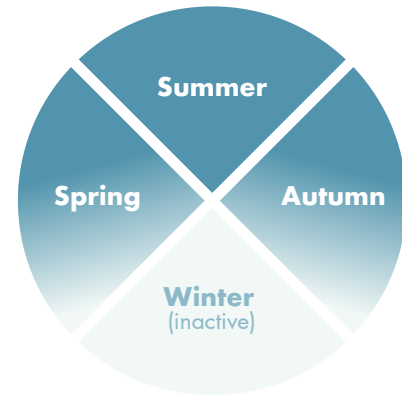
**Horns** none; males have two ridges at front of head but females have none

**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

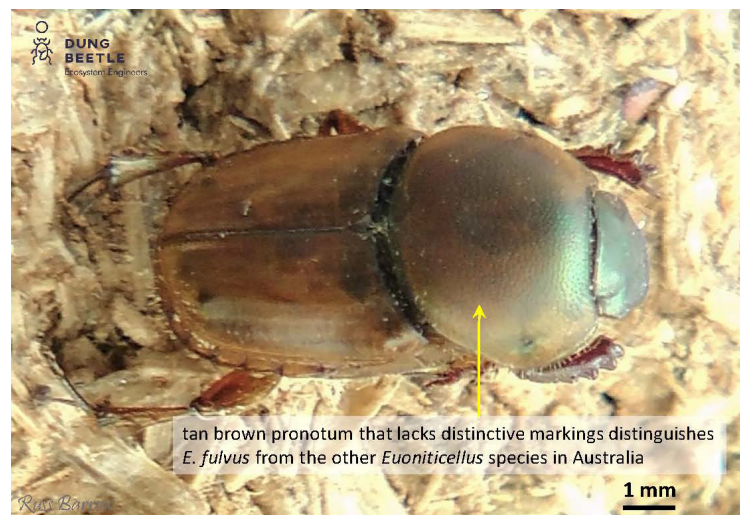
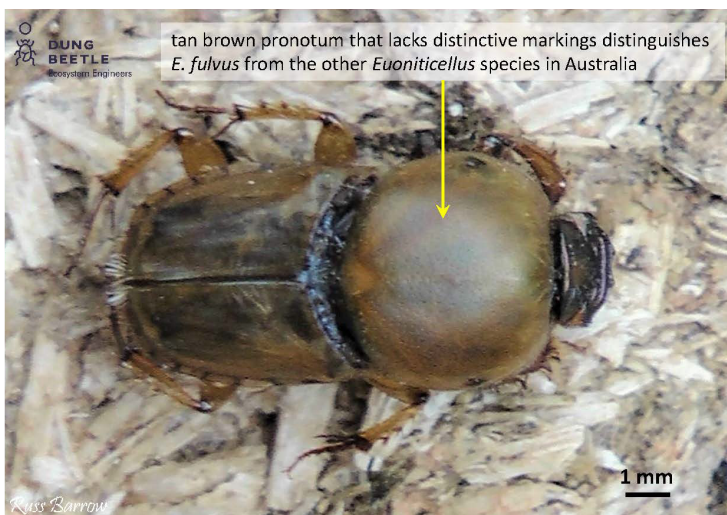
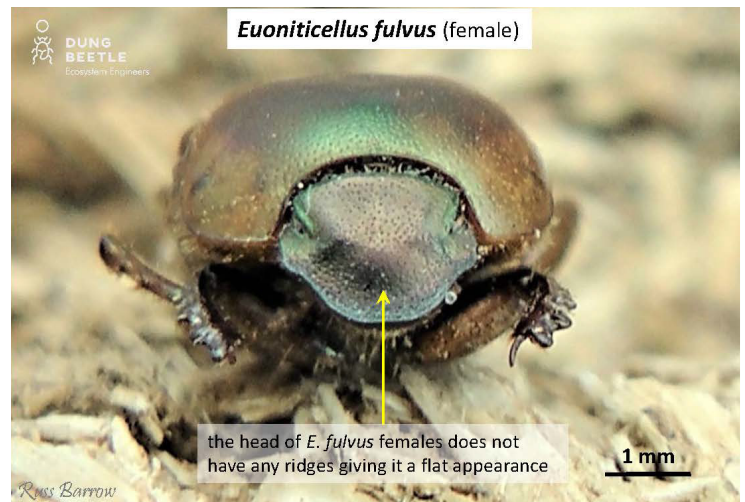
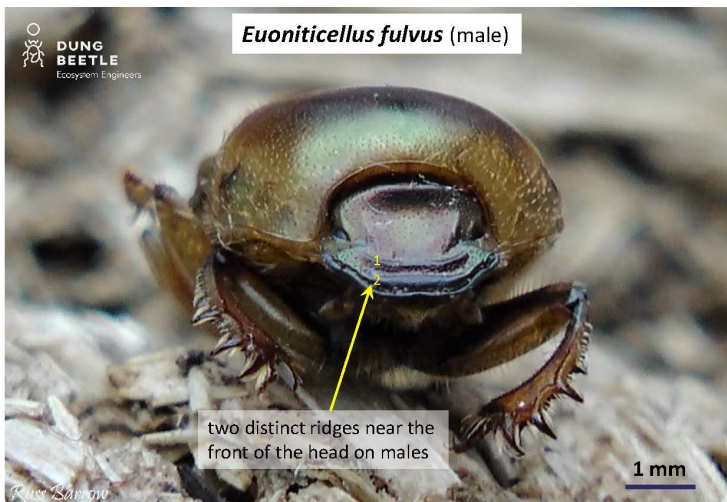


■ Active □ Inactive

8 mm  ↔  12 mm

Burrowing depth

**17 – 23 cm**





# Euoniticellus pallipes



Tunneler

**Colour** light to medium brown with speckling over pronotum and wing covers. 2–3 pairs of dark patches in centre of pronotum

**Horns** none; arched ridge between eyes in males, small ridge in females

**Flight time** day

**Distribution** WA, SA, VIC, NSW

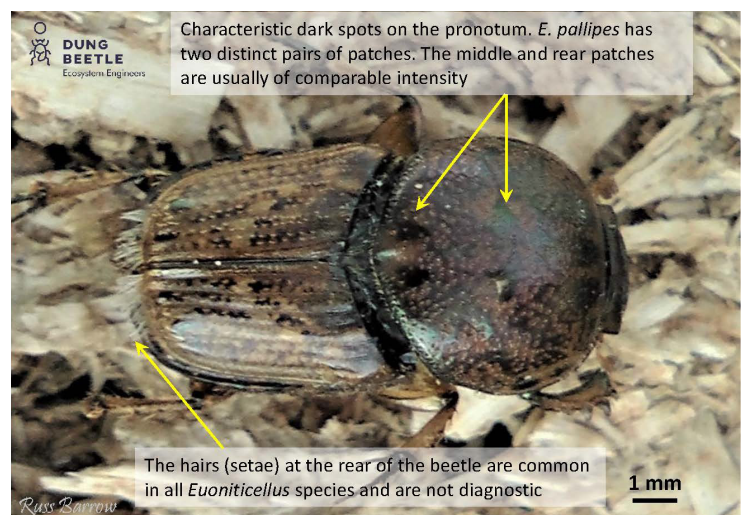
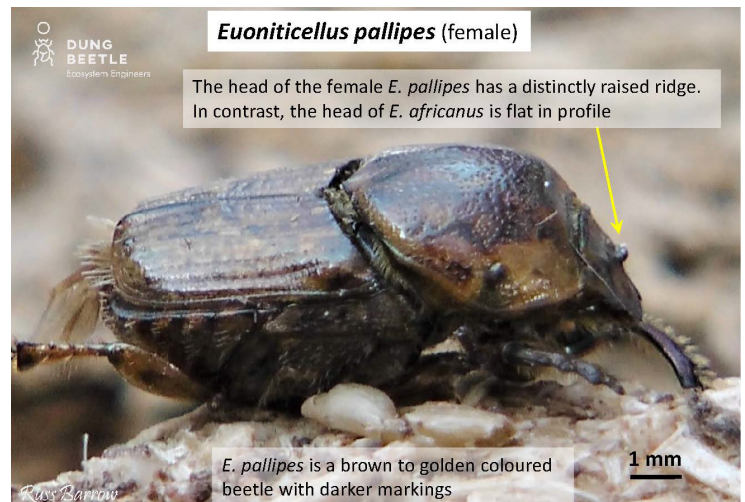
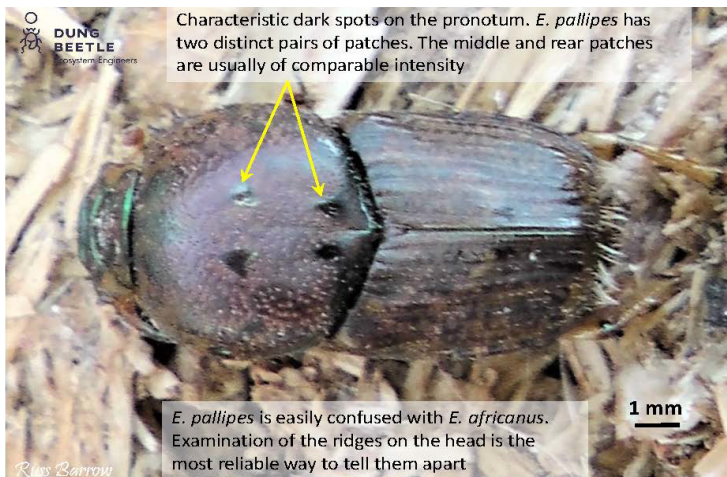
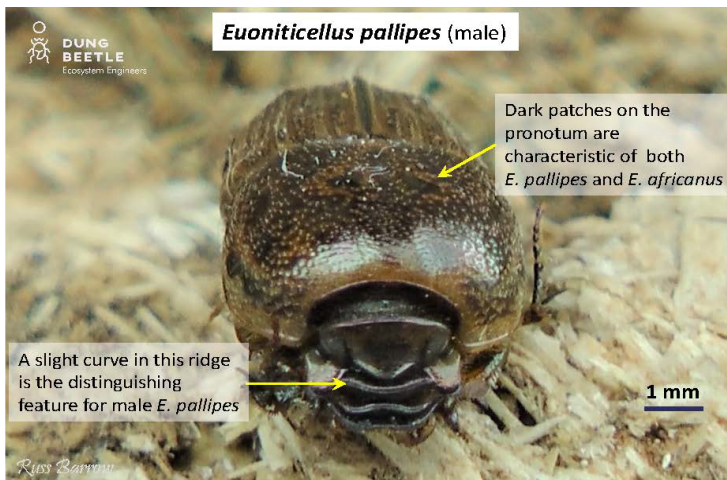
**Similar Species** *E. pallipes* female has a small ridge between eyes, but *E. africanus* female has none. *E. pallipes* male has shallowly arched ridge between eyes, which is strongly curved in male *E. africanus*.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

9 mm ↔ 12 mm





# Geotrupes spiniger

Tunneler

**Colour** shiny black with metallic blue/ purplish underside

**Horns** none

**Flight time** dusk and dawn

**Distribution** TAS, VIC, southeast and northeast NSW

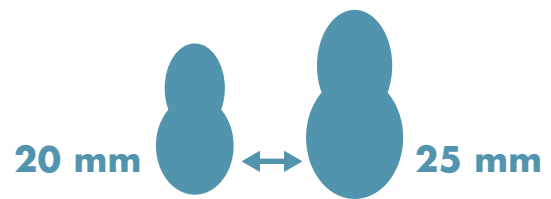
**Similar Species** unlikely to be confused with any other species of dung beetle found in Australia.



Seasonal activity

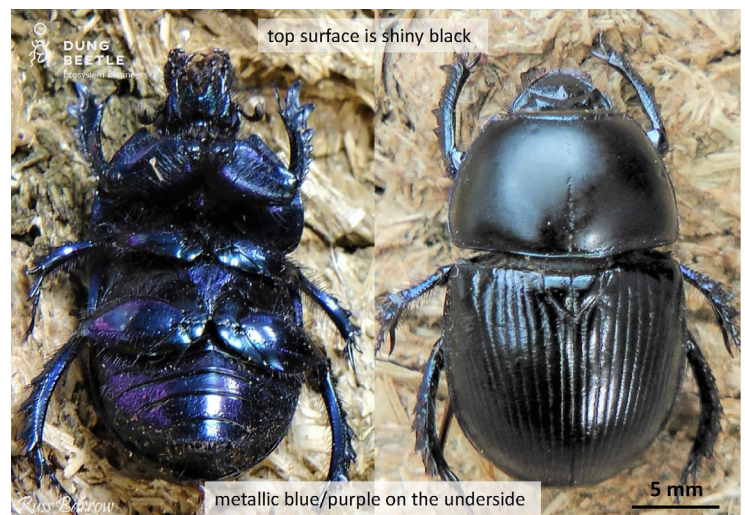
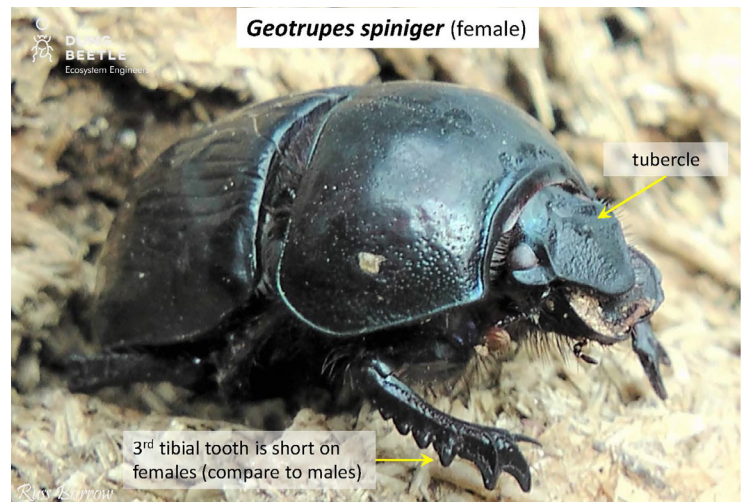
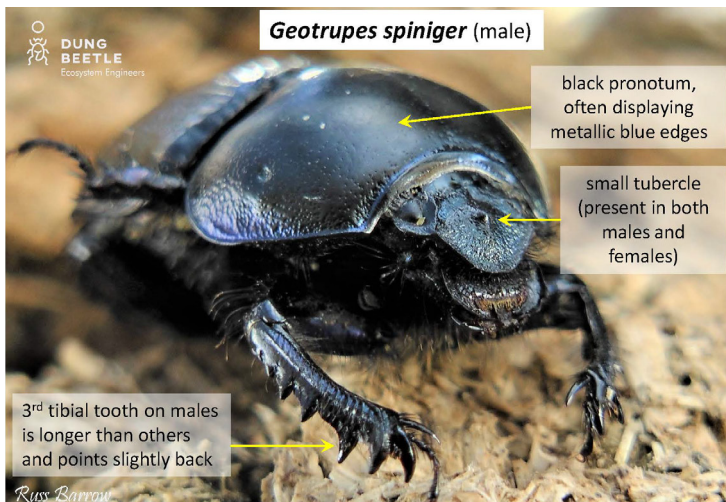


■ Active □ Inactive



Burrowing depth

**20 – 28 cm**





# Onitis aygulus



Tunneler

**Colour** dark brown pronotum with coppery or green sheen, light brown wing covers

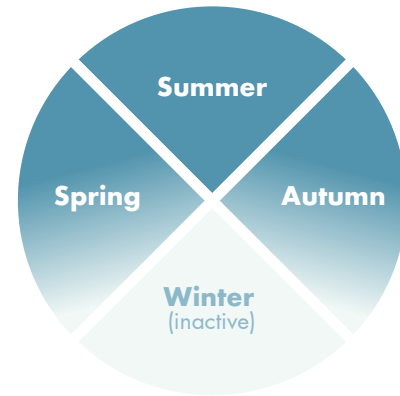
**Horns** female has distinct bump at back of head and a ridge close to front of head

**Flight time** dusk and dawn

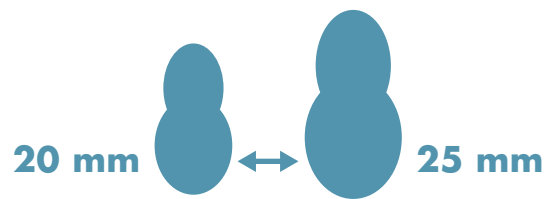
**Distribution** WA, SA, VIC, NSW

**Similar Species** *Onitis alexis* is similar but smaller and has a single curved spur on hind femur of male (unequal double spur in *O. aygulus*).

Seasonal activity

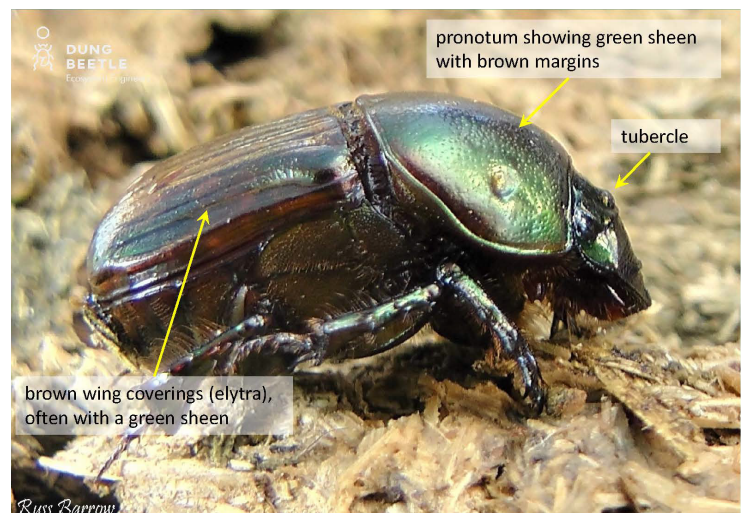
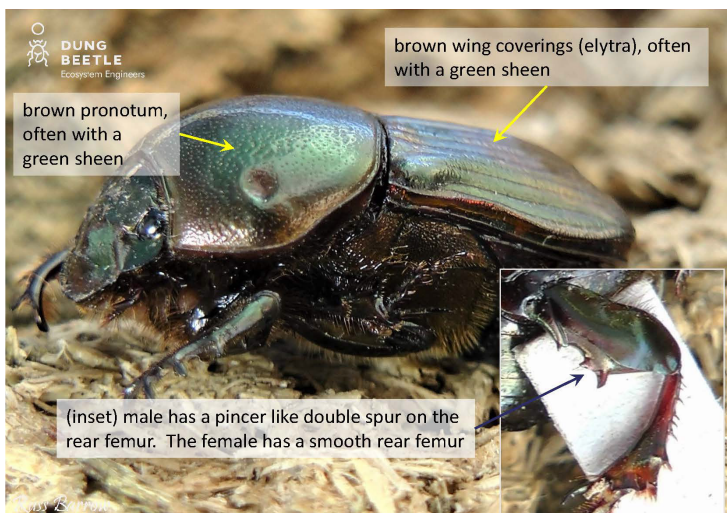
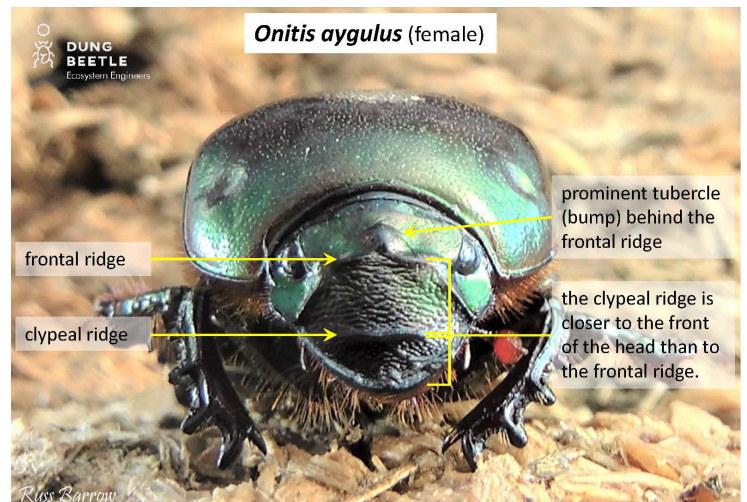
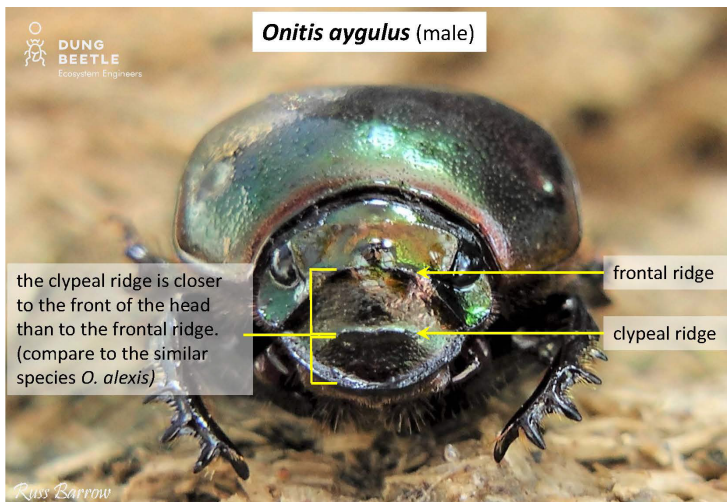


■ Active □ Inactive



Burrowing depth

**5 – 16 cm**





# Onthophagus binodis



Tunneler

**Colour** matt black

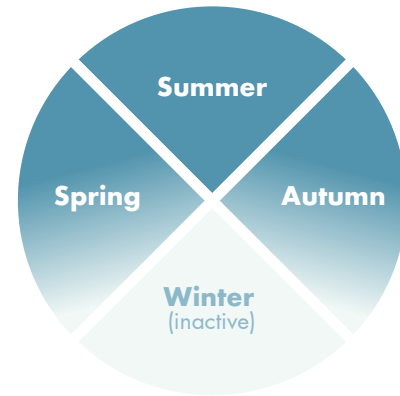
**Horns** large lobe at front of pronotum (males), smaller in females

**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

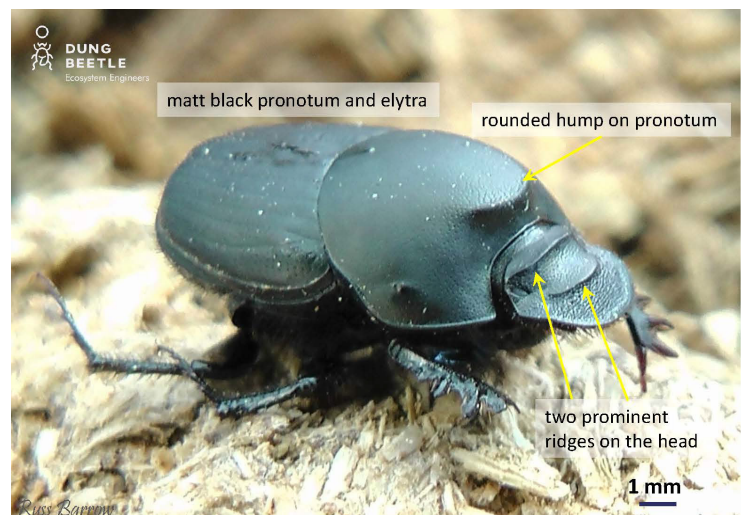
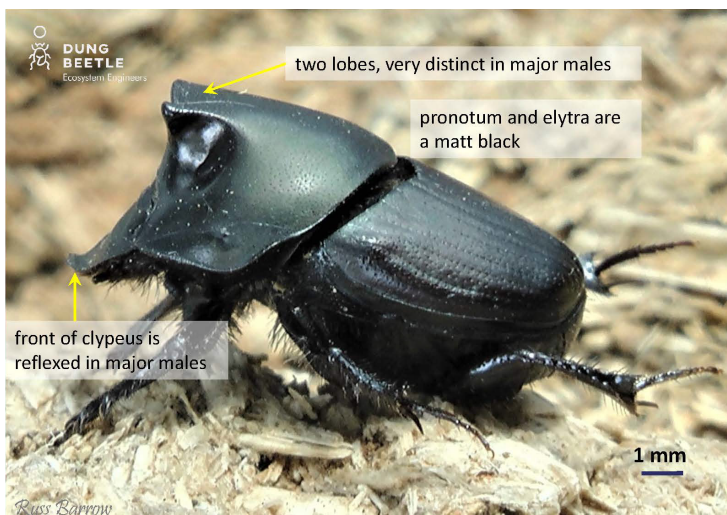
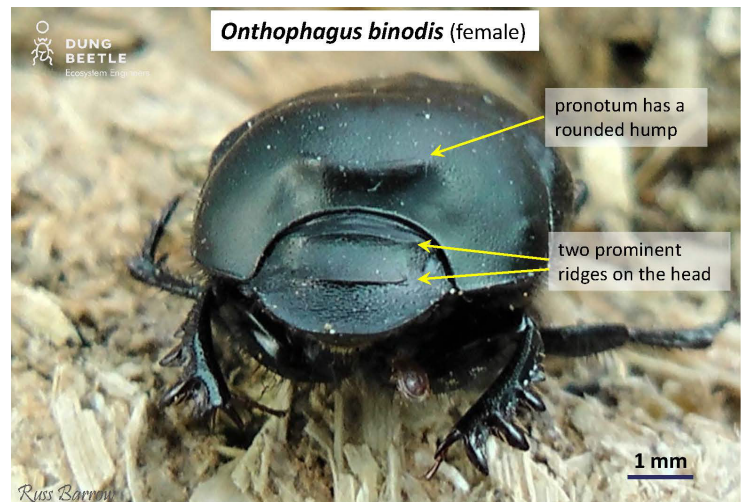
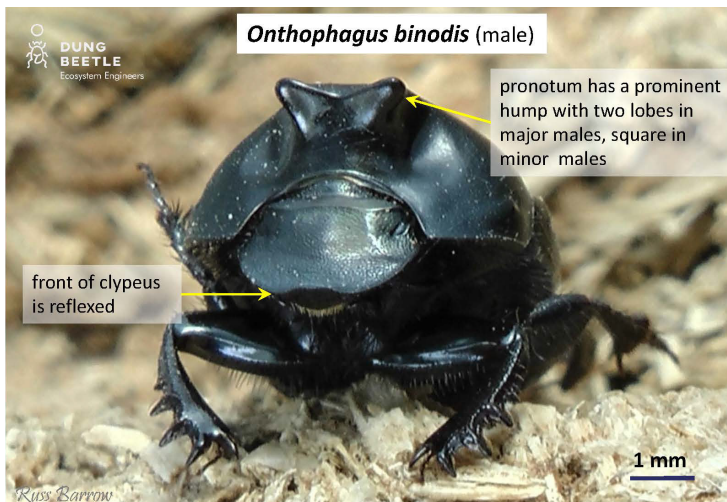


■ Active □ Inactive

11 mm ↔ 13 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm





# Onthophagus taurus



Tunneler

**Colour** shiny black

**Horns** males have long, curved horns; females have none

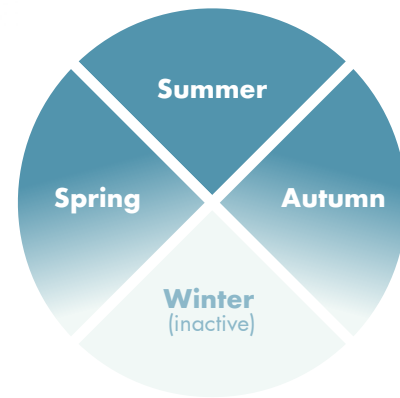
**Flight time** day

**Minor** minor males have very short horns extending upward from back of head

**Distribution** WA, SA, VIC, TAS, NSW

**Similar Species** female *O. binodis* are similar to female *O. taurus*, but *O. taurus* females are shinier and the front of the pronotum is rounded, not lobed.

Seasonal activity

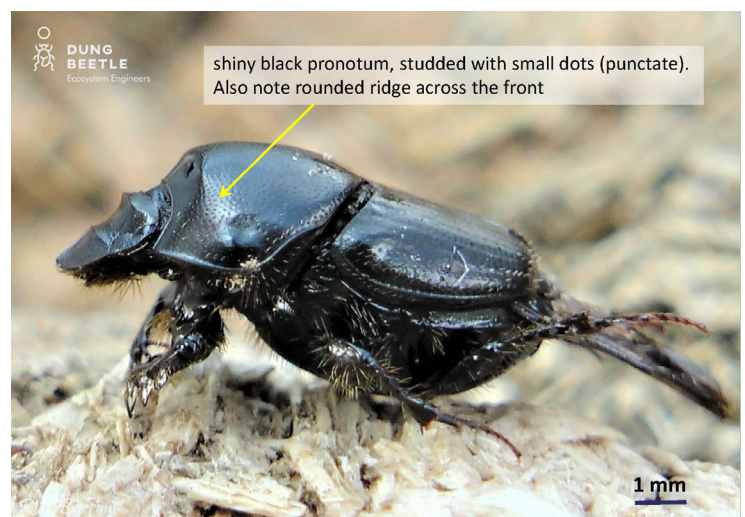
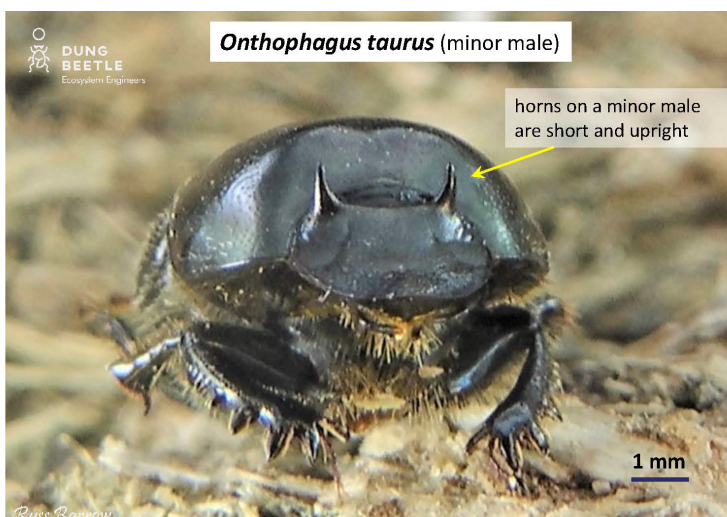
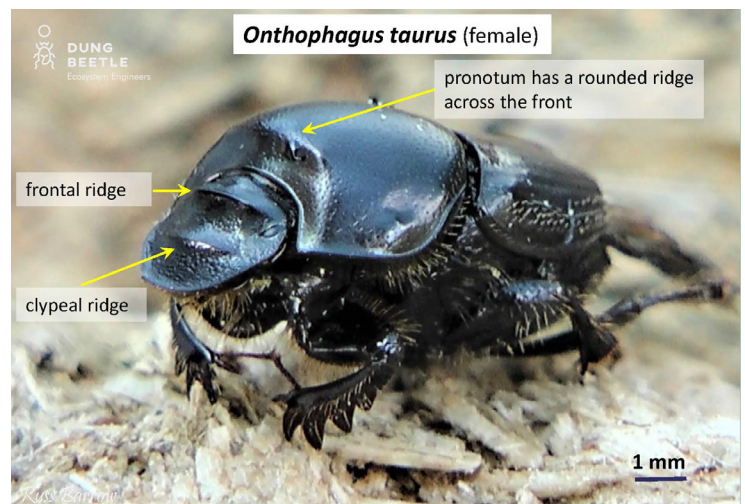
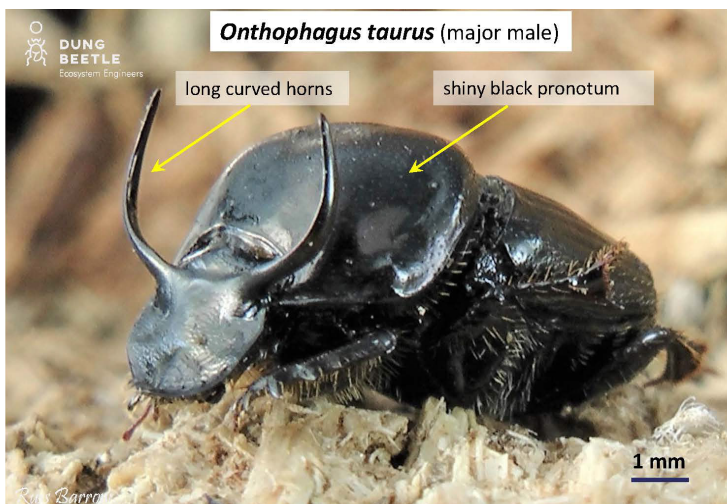


■ Active □ Inactive

8 mm ↔ 10 mm

Burrowing depth

8 – 13 cm



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**DUNG BEETLE**  
Ecosystem Engineers

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