

What's in your dung?

A guide to dung beetle species in East Gippsland, Victoria.



**DUNG
BEETLE**

Ecosystem Engineers



REGIONAL GUIDE

East Gippsland

East Gippsland

Dung beetle species that are commonly found in the region.

Introduced



Aphodius
fimetarius

Dweller



Bubas
bison

Tunneler



Euoniticellus
fulvus

Tunneler



Geotrupes
spiniger

Tunneler



Onitis
alexis

Tunneler



Onthophagus
binodis

Tunneler



Onthophagus
taurus

Tunneler

Natives



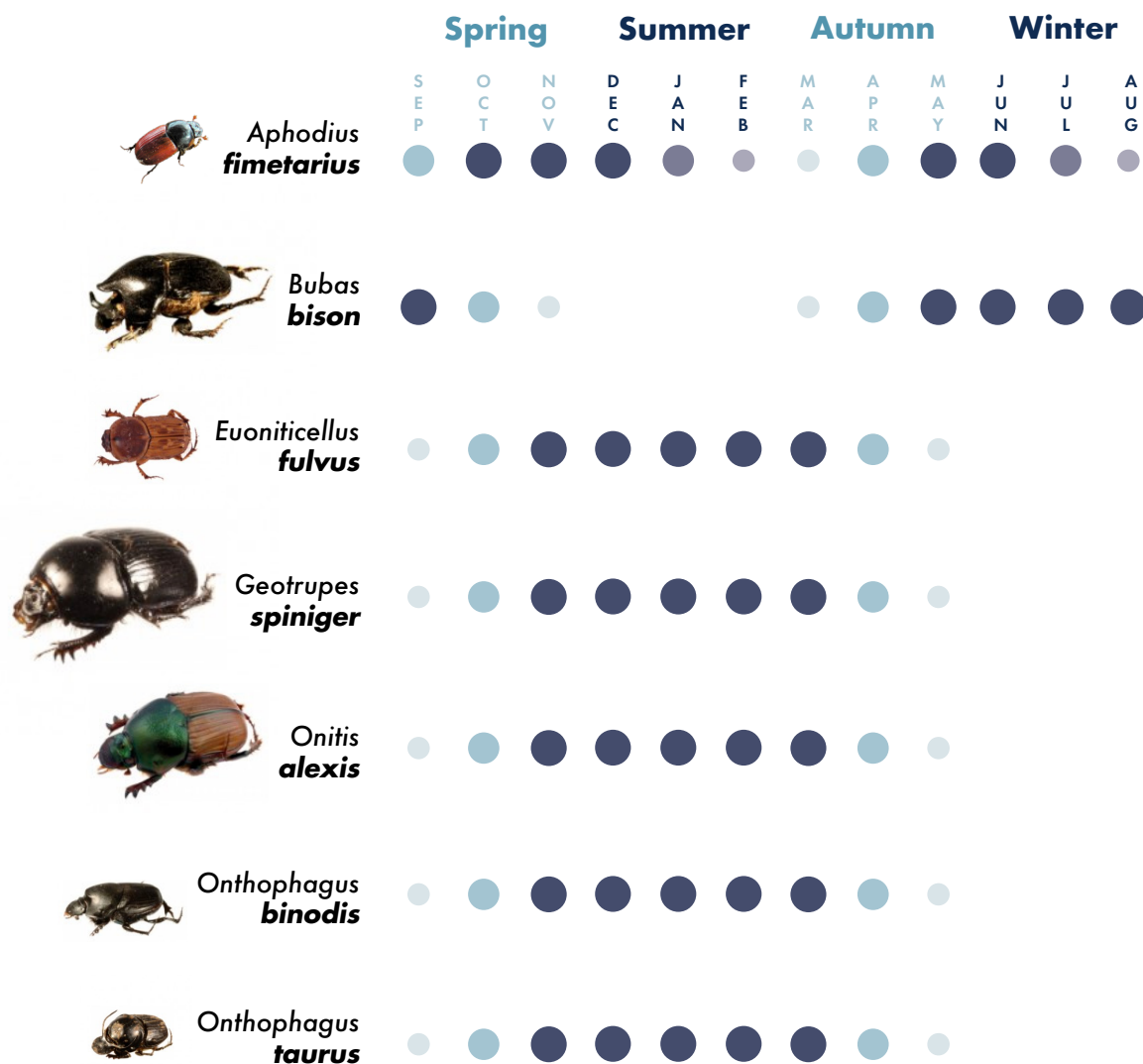
Onthophagus
australis

Onthophagus
mniszechi

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

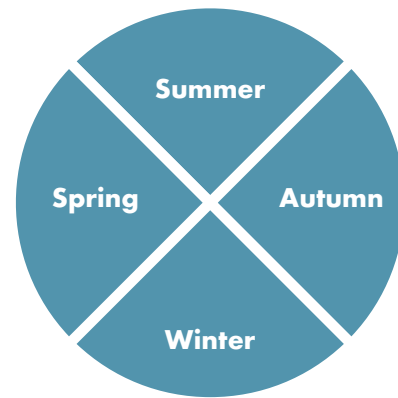
Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly activity entire year

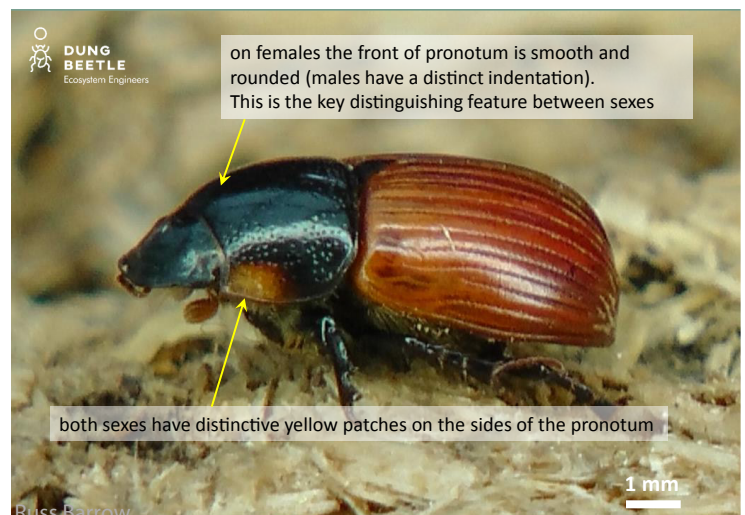
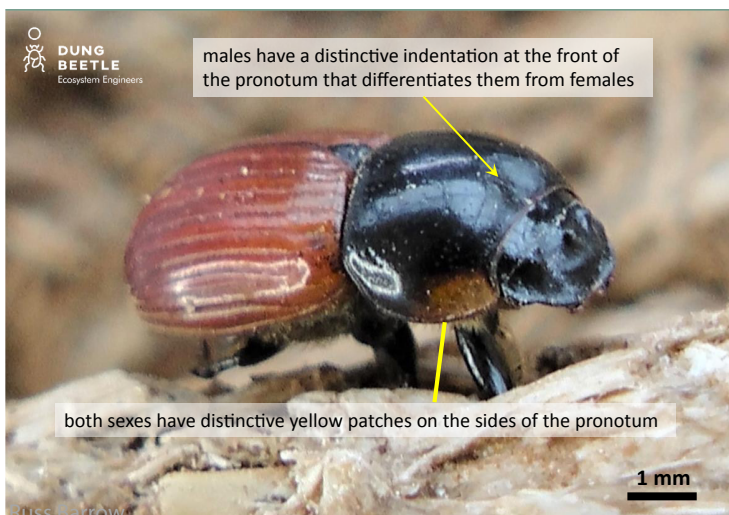
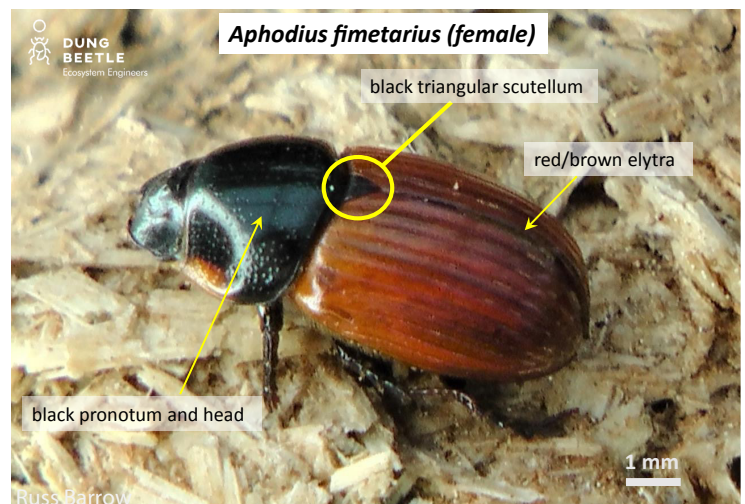
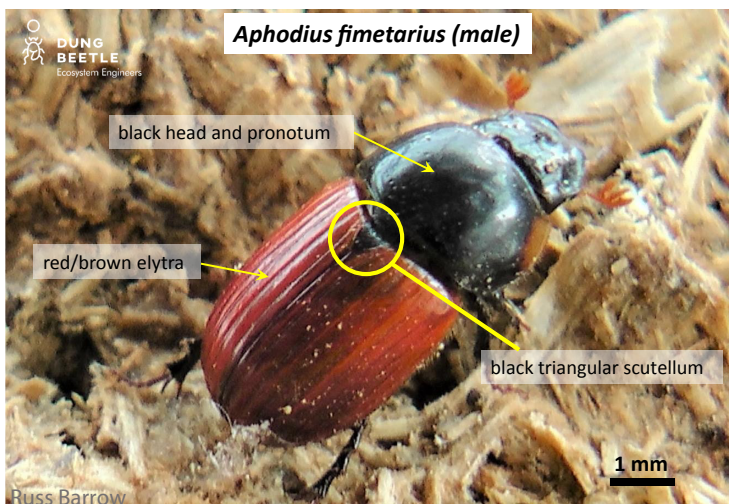
Distribution southern Australia including TAS

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 6 mm ↔ 9 mm



Bubas bison



Tunneler

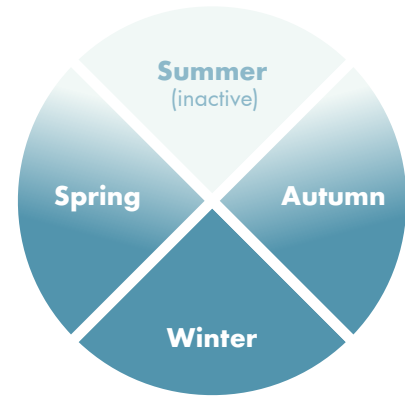
Colour shiny black

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

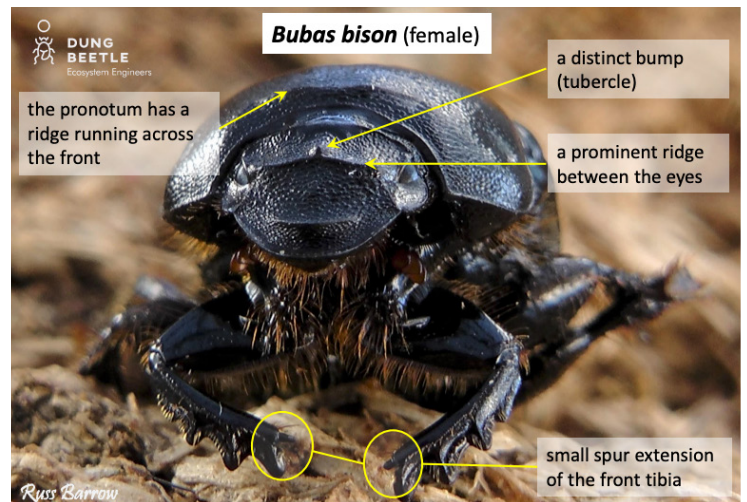
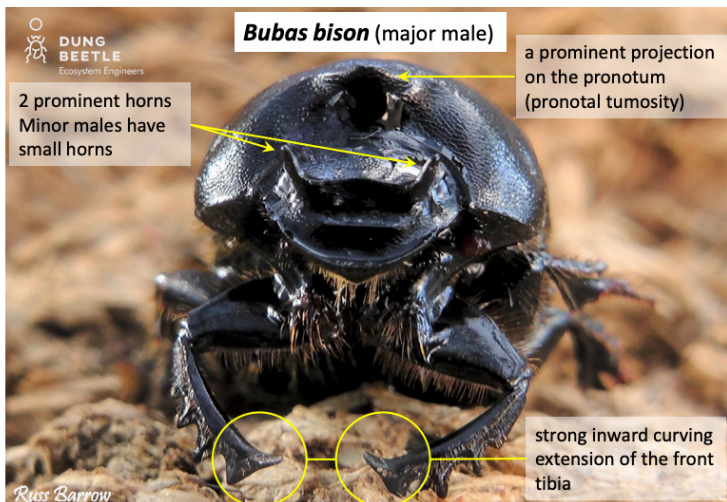


■ Active ■ Inactive

Size: **13 mm** ↔ **19 mm**

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

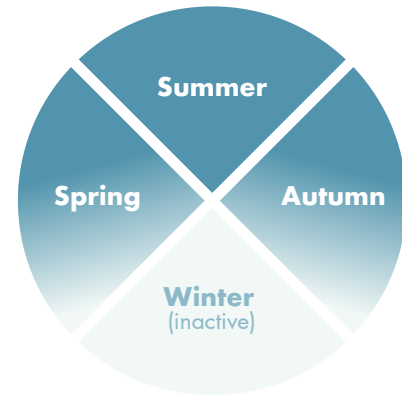
Horns none; males have two ridges at front of head but females have none

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

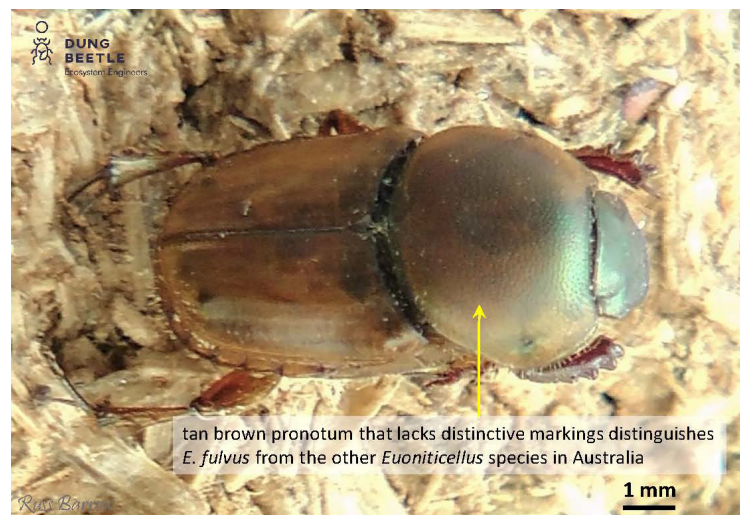
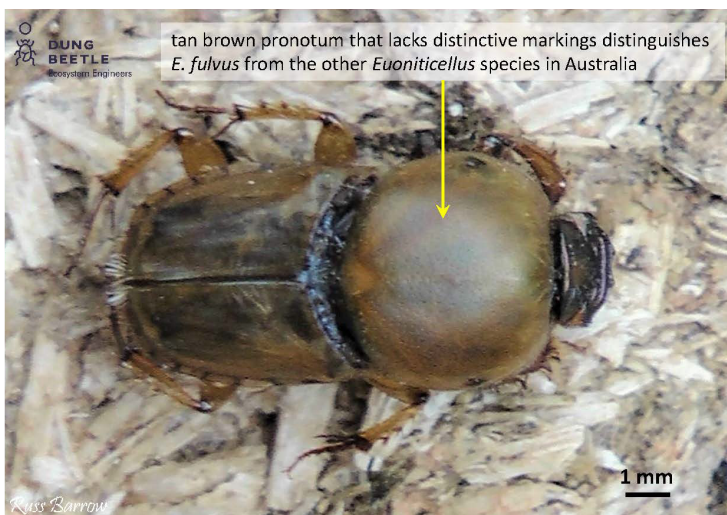
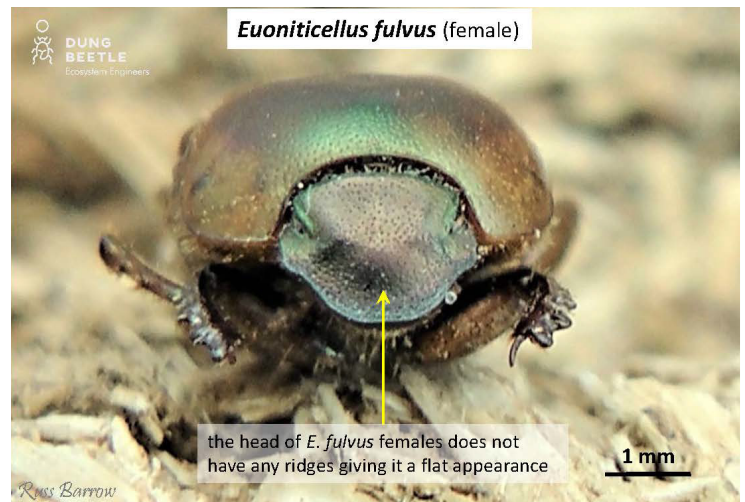
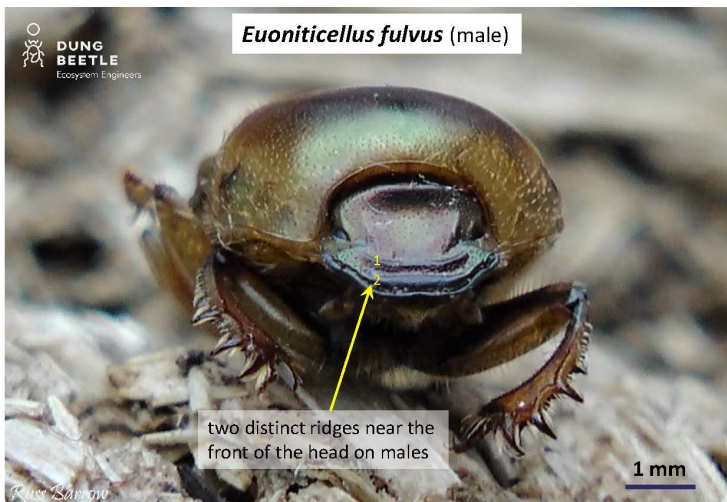


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 8 mm  12 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



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

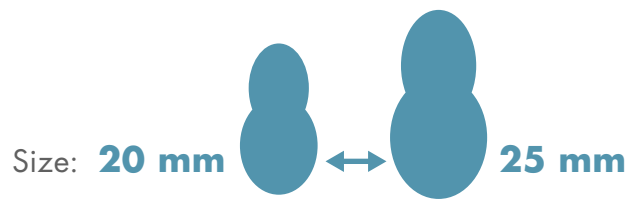
Similar species unlikely to be confused with any other species of dung beetle found in Australia.



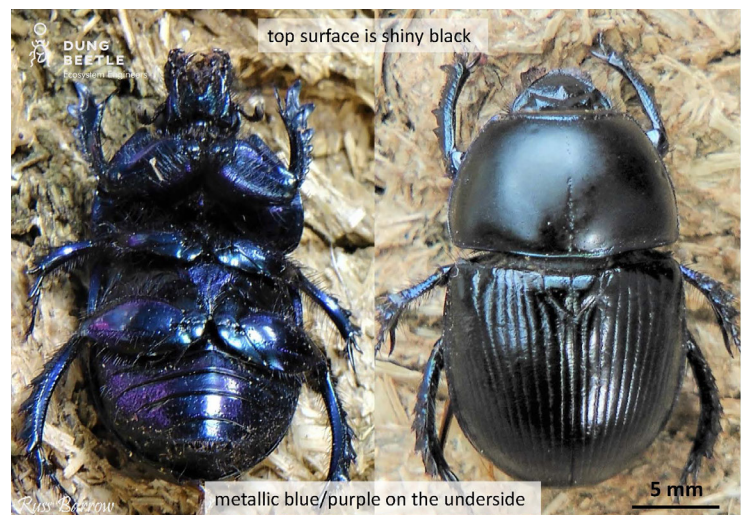
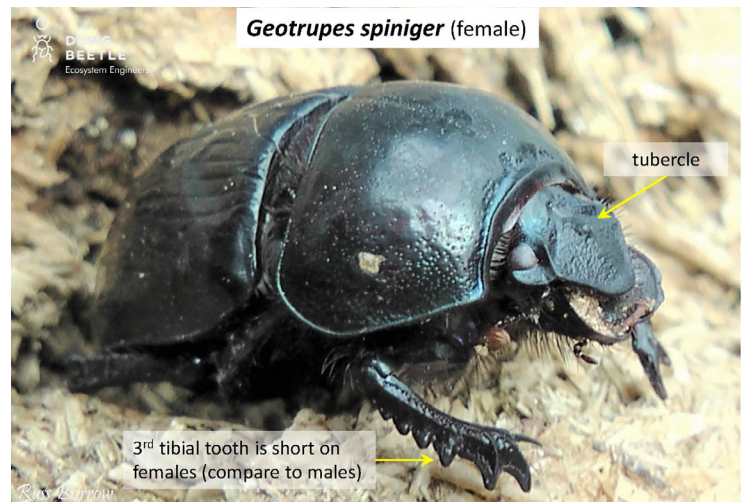
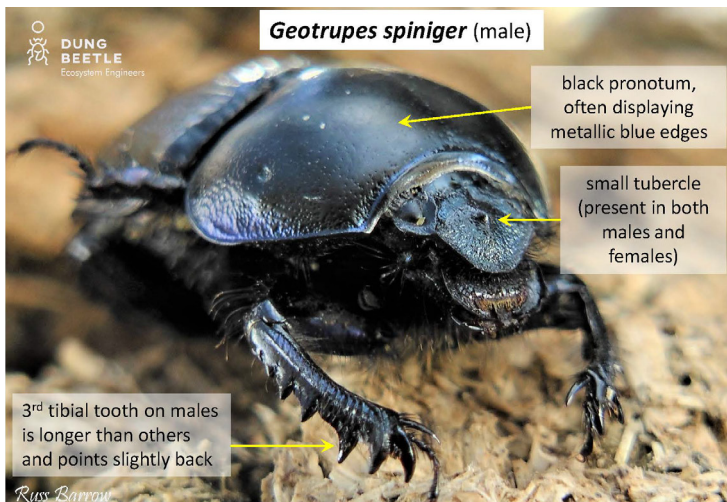
Seasonal activity



Active Inactive



Burrowing depth
20 – 28 cm



Onitis alexis



Tunneler

Colour green/coppery pronotum, light brown wing covers

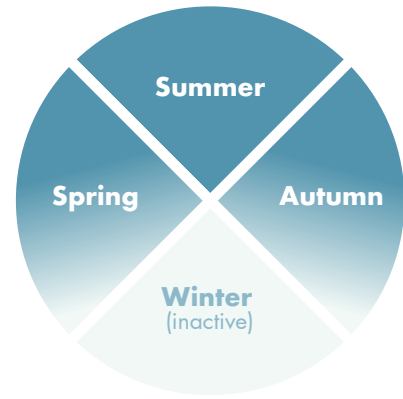
Horns both sexes have a ridge midway between eyes and front of head; female has distinct bump at back of head

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

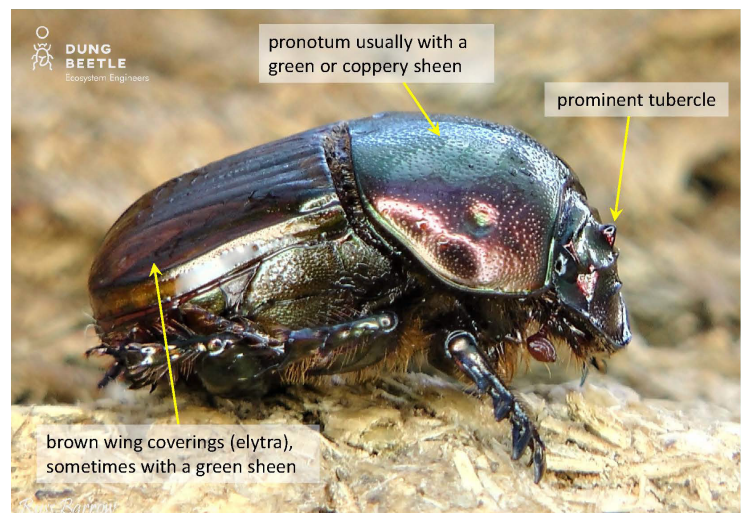
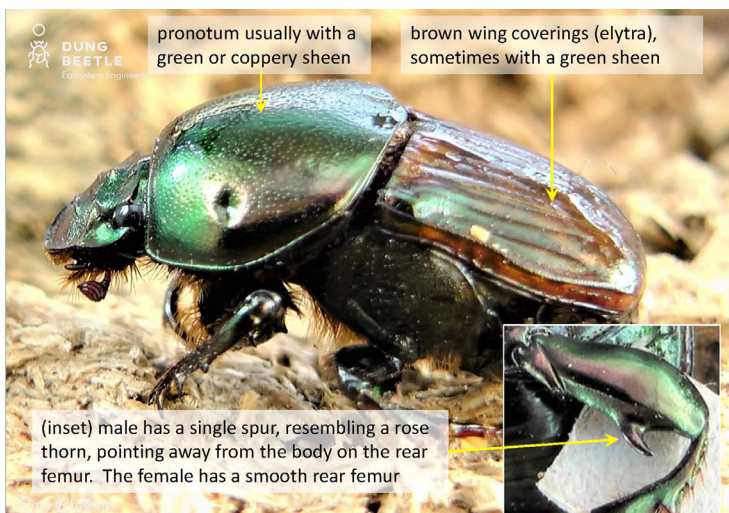
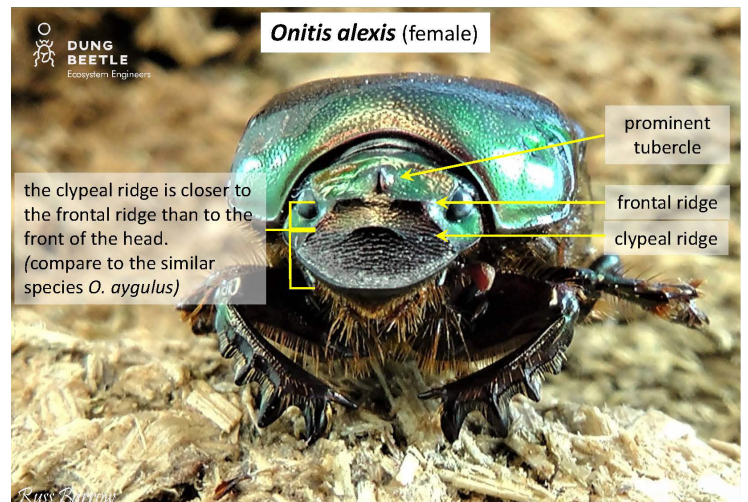
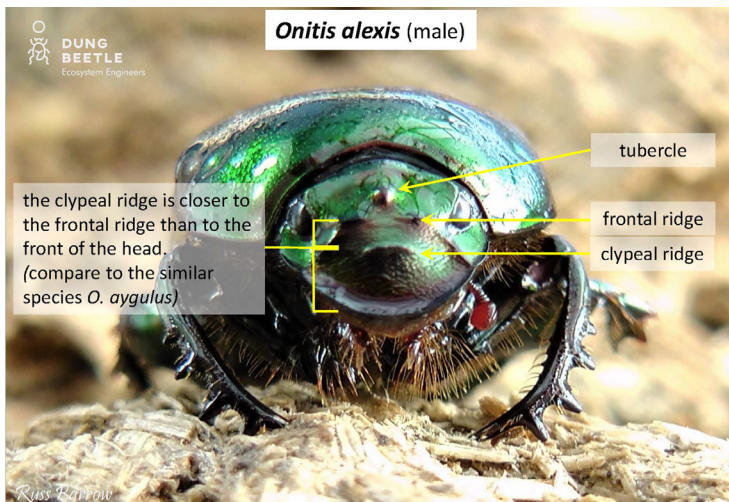


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 13 mm ↔ 20 mm

Burrowing depth

20 – 65 cm



Onthophagus binodis



Tunneler

Colour matt black

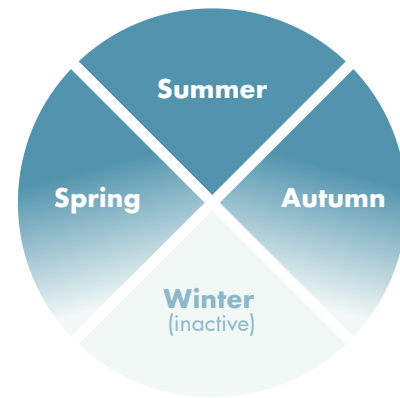
Horns large lobe at front of pronotum (males), smaller in females

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

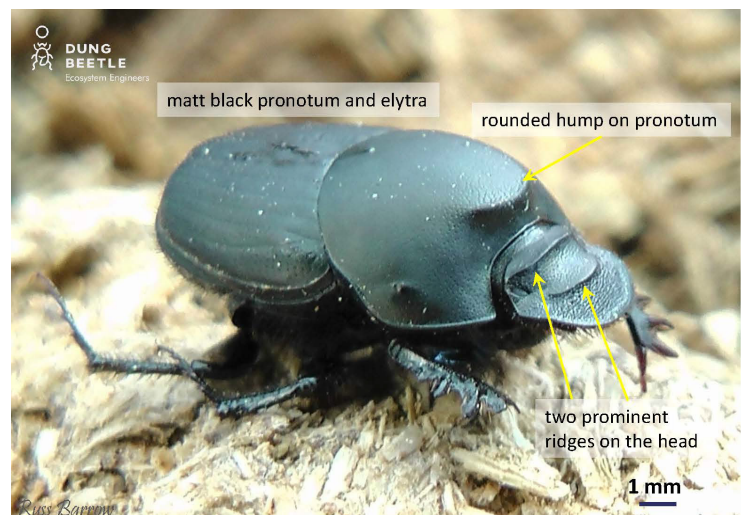
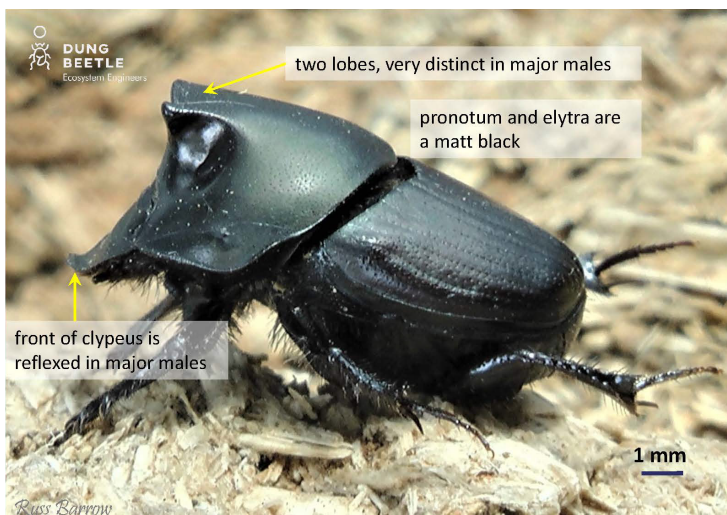
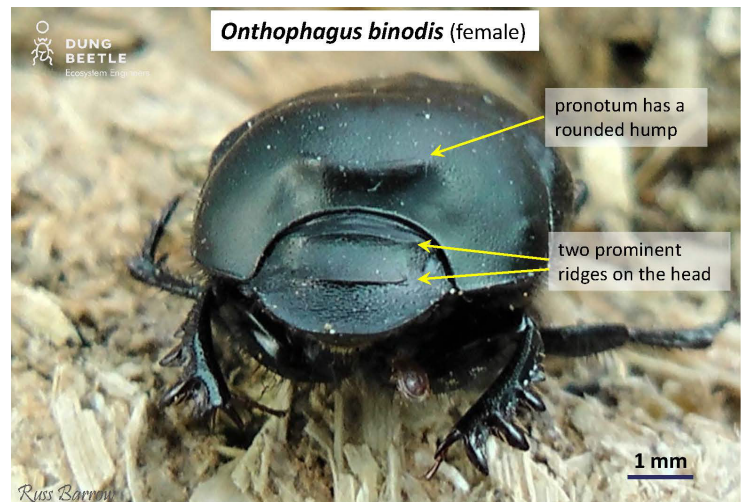
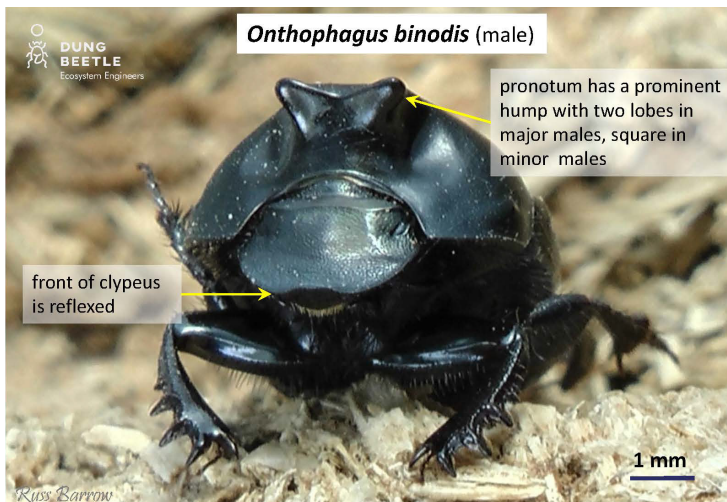


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 11 mm ↔ 13 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



Onthophagus taurus



Tunneler

Colour shiny black

Horns males have long, curved horns; females have none

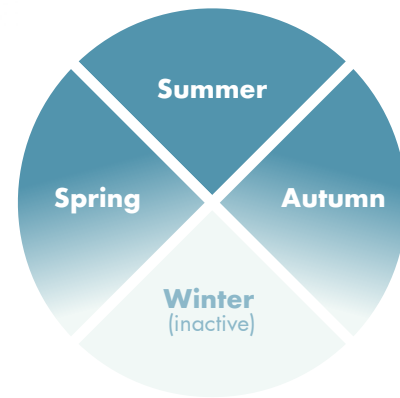
Flight time day

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

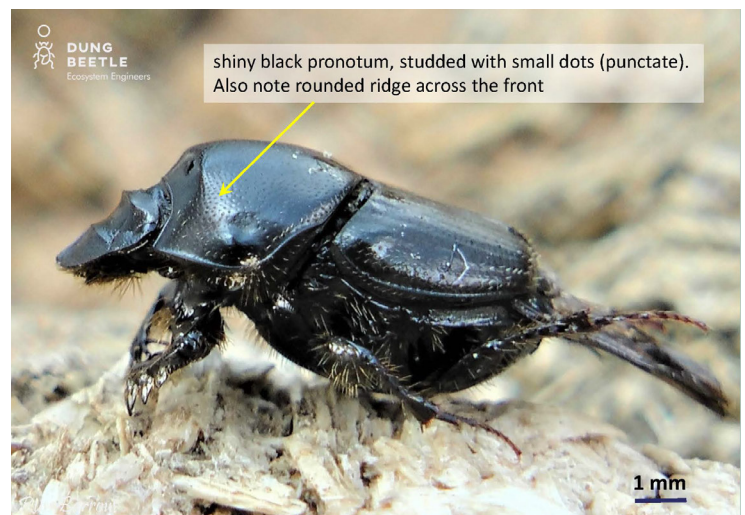
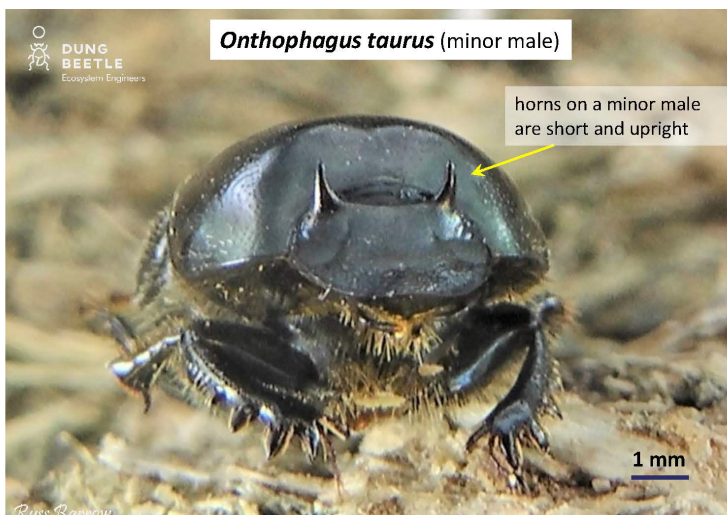
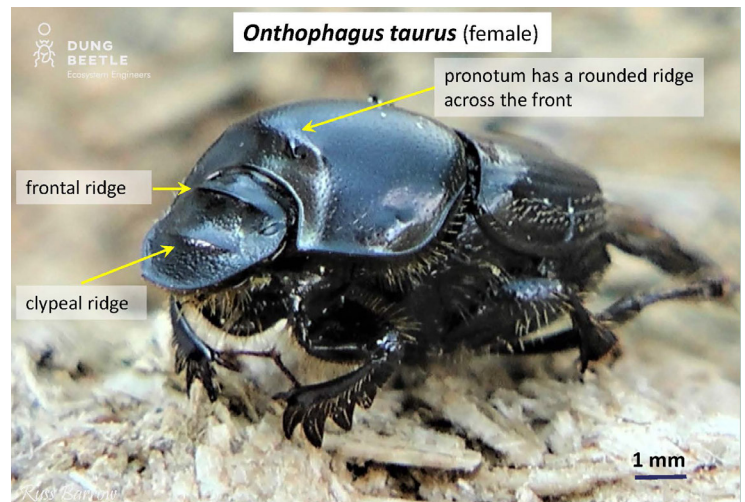
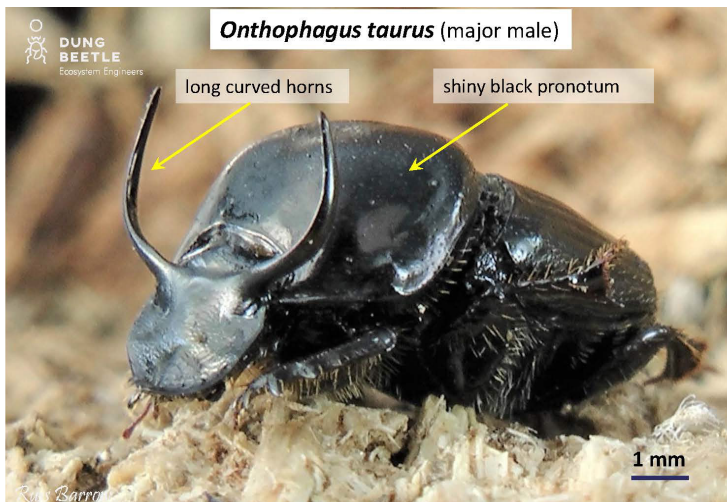


■ Active □ Inactive

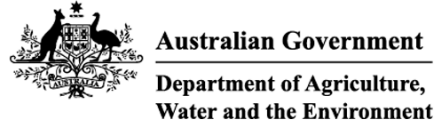
Size: **8 mm** ↔ **10 mm**

Burrowing depth

8 – 13 cm



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