

What's in your dung?

A guide to dung beetle species in the North West NSW.





REGIONAL GUIDE North West NSW

North West NSW

Dung beetle species that are commonly found in the region.

Introduced



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 finetarius 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







Digitonthophagus gazella Seasonal activity

Tunneler

Colour two-toned; darkbrown pronotum, lighter brown elytra

Horns males have a pair of horns at the back of the head

Flight time dusk and dawn

Minor minor males have smaller horns

Distribution northern and eastern Australia





Burrowing depth 18 - 25 cm



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*.





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.



Size: 8 mm 8 + 8 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.





Burrowing depth 11 – 19 cm





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).





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, southeast 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.





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.





Burrowing depth 8 – 13 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).







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 8 🔶 9 mm



Sisyphus spinipes 💓

Roller

Colour brown to dark brown/grey with long thin legs

Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly activity spring to early winter

Distribution QLD, northeast NSW

Similar species S. rubrus is smaller and lighter. The inside edge of hind femur is rounded in male S. rubrus and angled in male S. spinipes.

Other notes Dung balls are not buried but instead are attached to vegetation (larval development takes place aboveground).





Onitis caffer 🦈

Tunneler

Colour shiny black, with pronotumn early as long as wing covers

Horns none, but males have serrations on hind femur

Flight time dusk and dawn

Yearly activity autumn-early winter. A winter rainfall strain may become active again in spring.

Distribution WA, NSW, southeast QLD

Similar species Black colour and stocky shape of O. caffer is different from related species. Also, serrations on hind leg of male are unique; related species have one or two spurs on hind leg. Spring Autumn Winter





Seasonal activity

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.





Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment







Ecosystem Engineers

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