

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

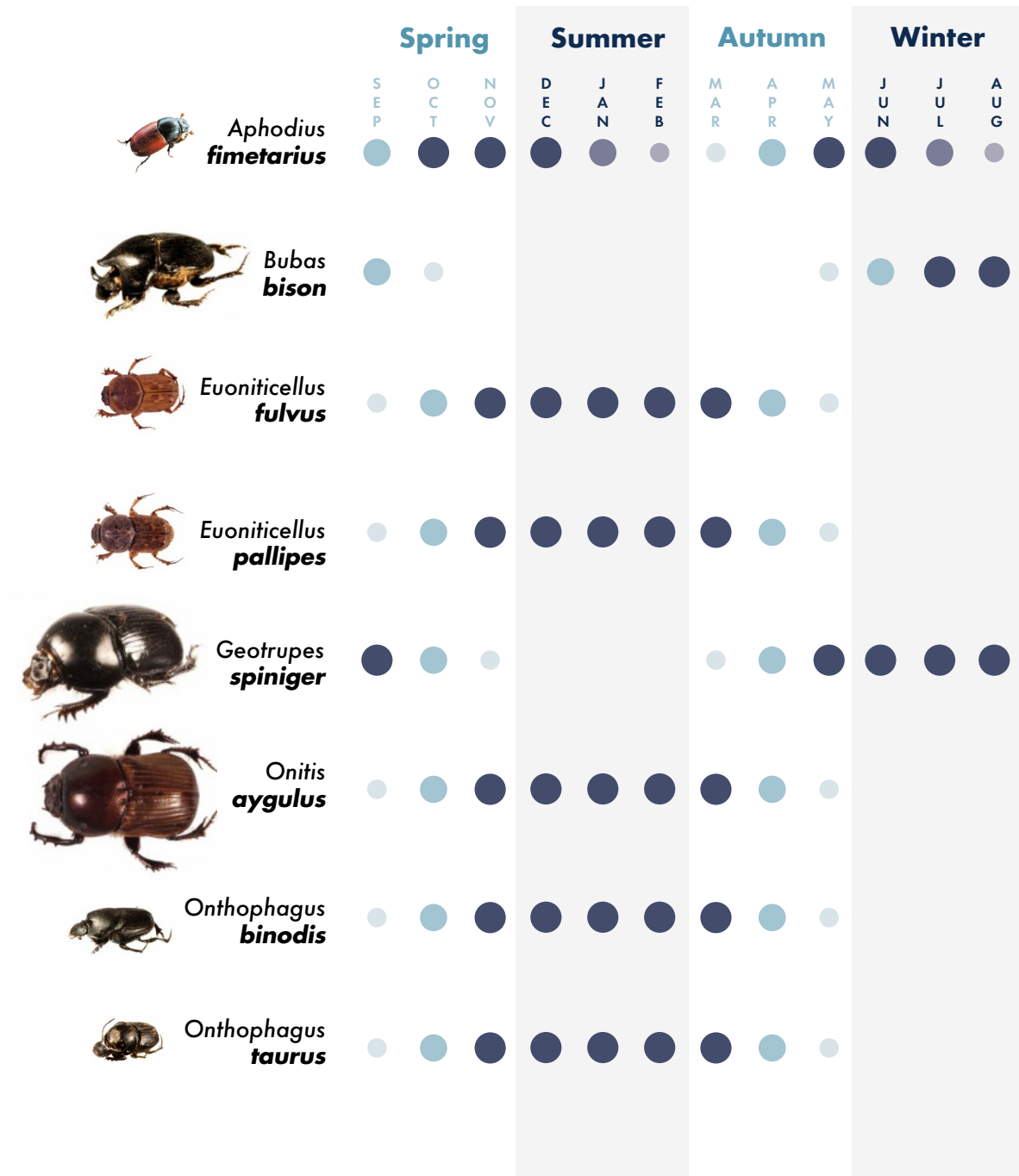


Onthophagus
granulatus

Note: 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

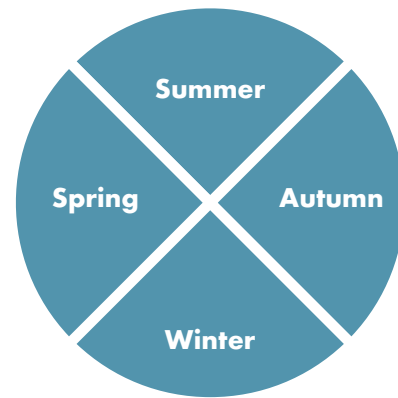
Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly activity entire year

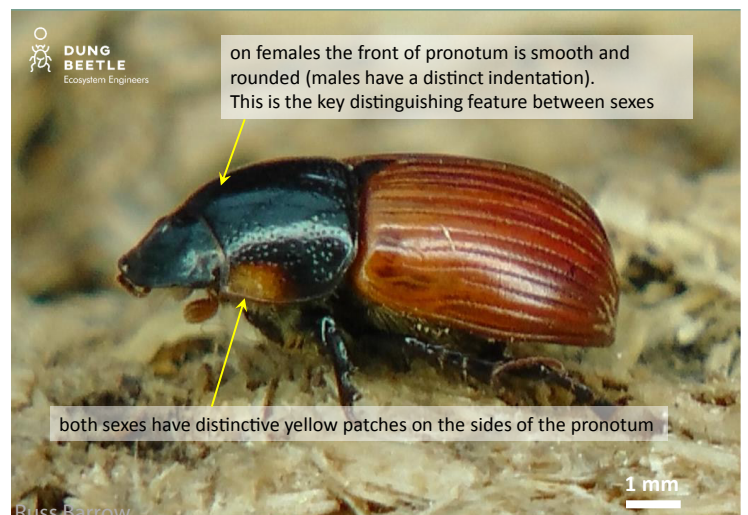
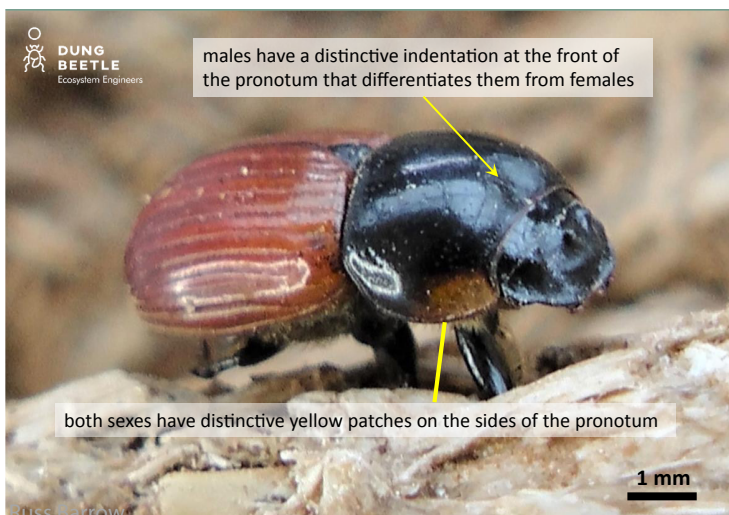
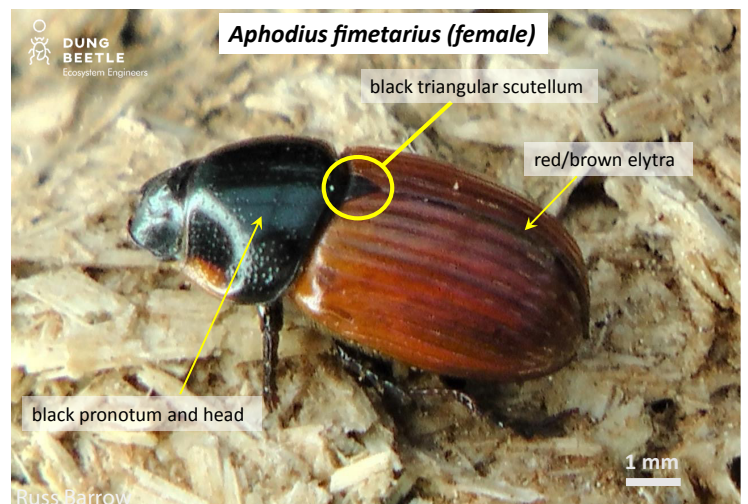
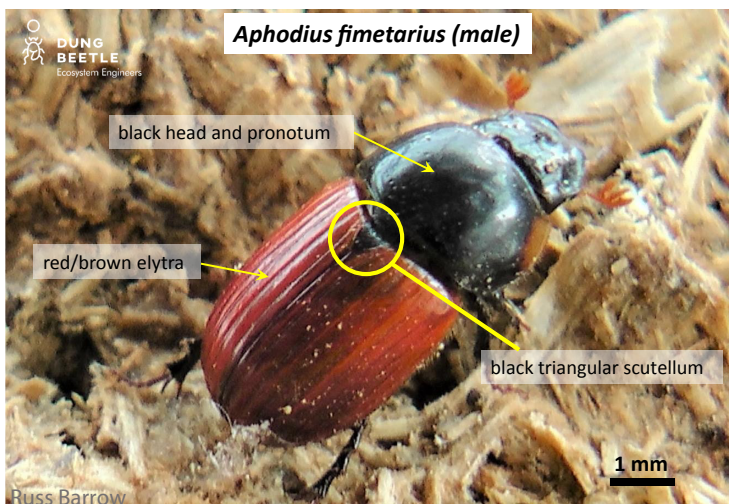
Distribution southern Australia including TAS

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 6 mm ↔ 9 mm



Bubas bison



Tunneler

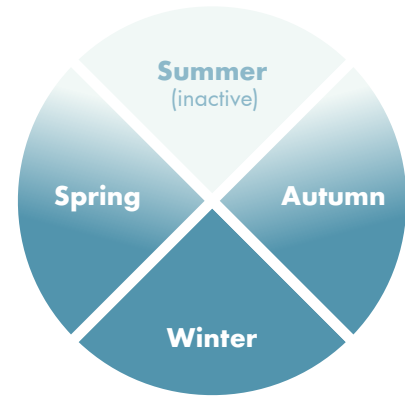
Colour shiny black

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

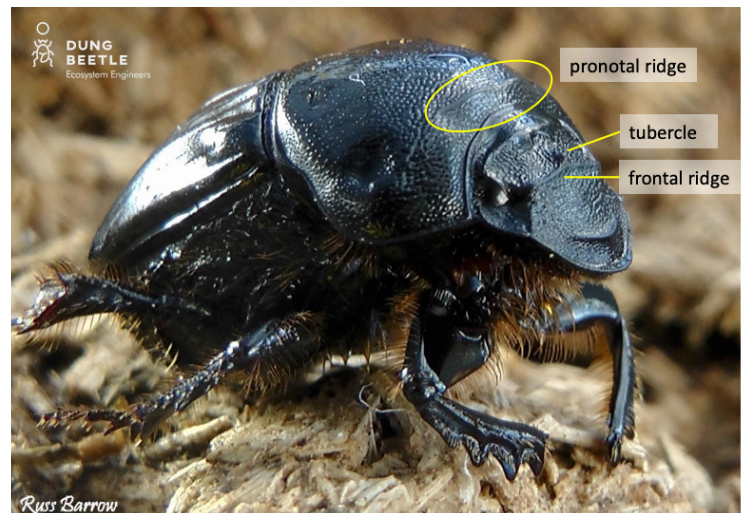
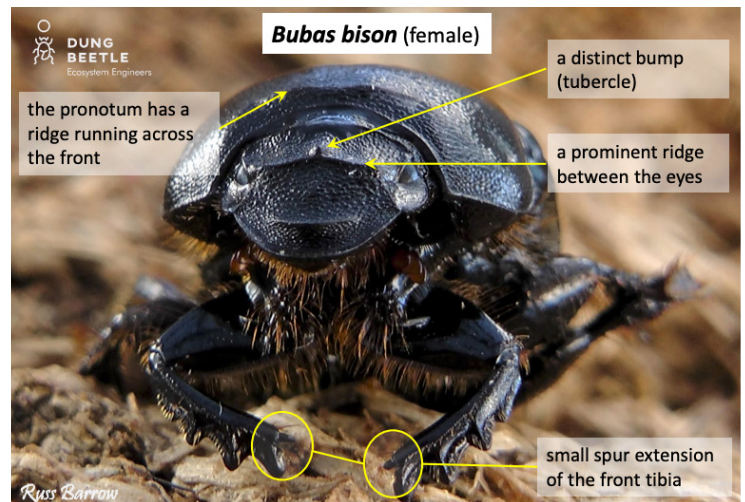
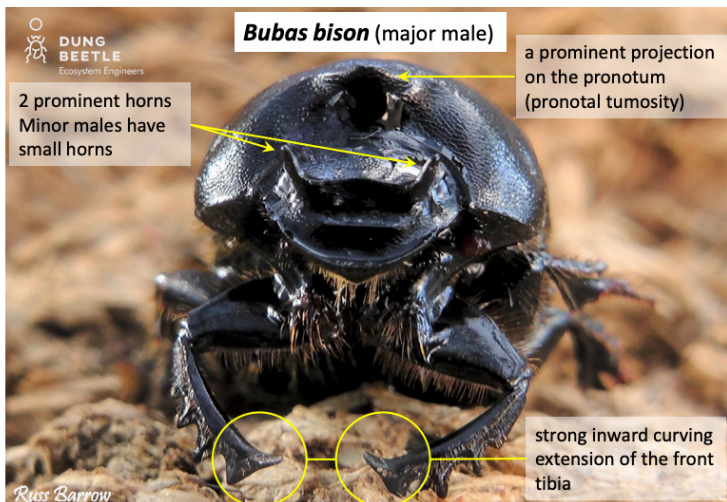


■ Active ■ Inactive

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

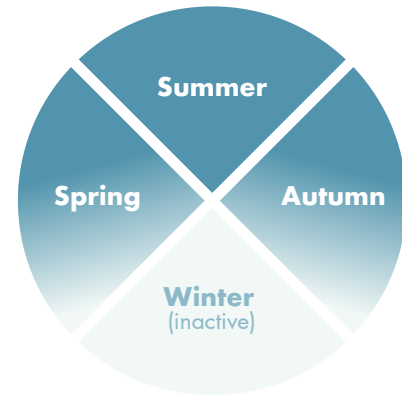
Horns none; males have two ridges at front of head but females have none

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

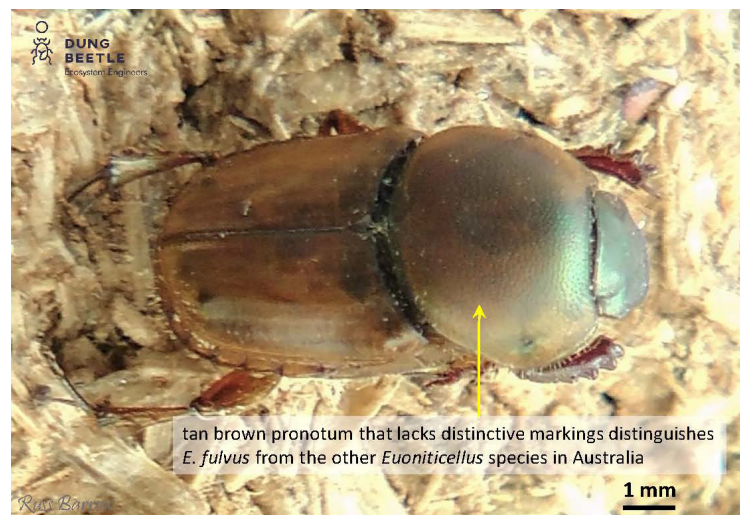
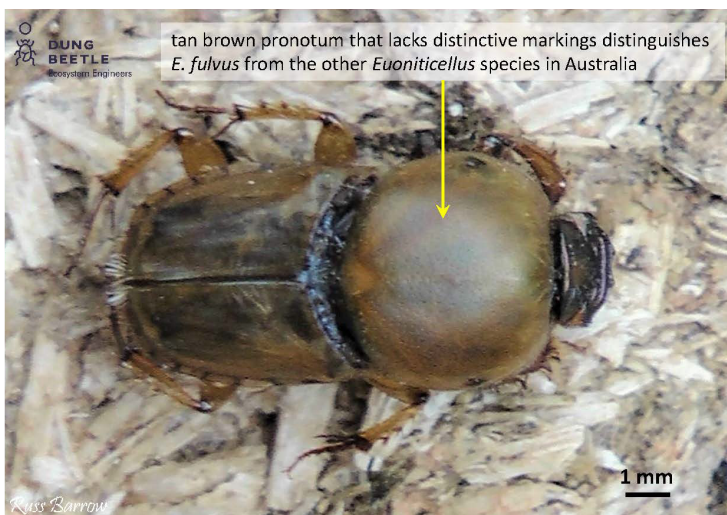
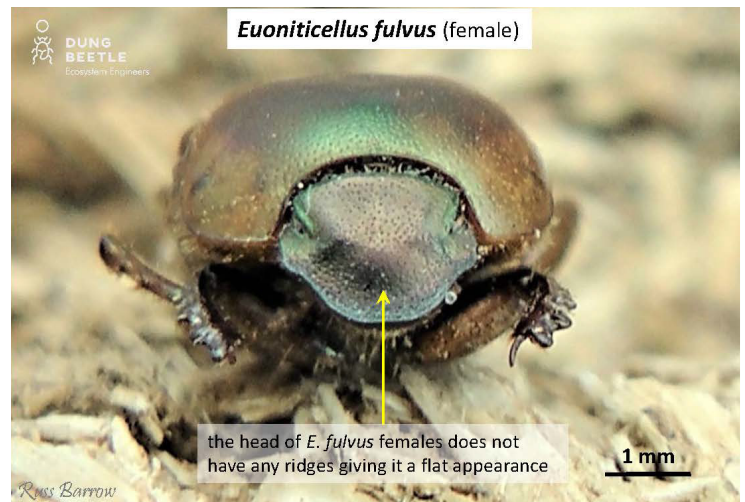
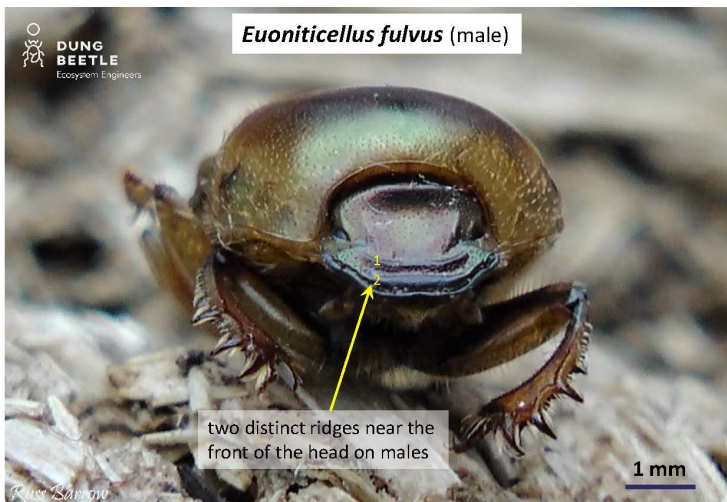


■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 8 mm  ↔  12 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



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

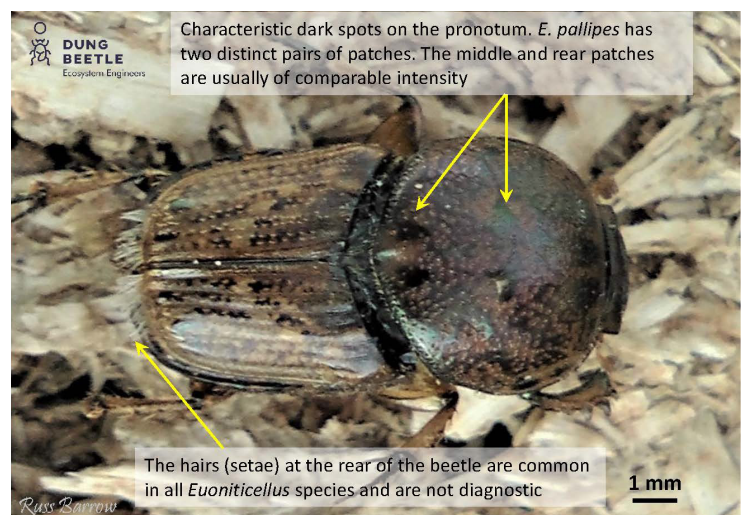
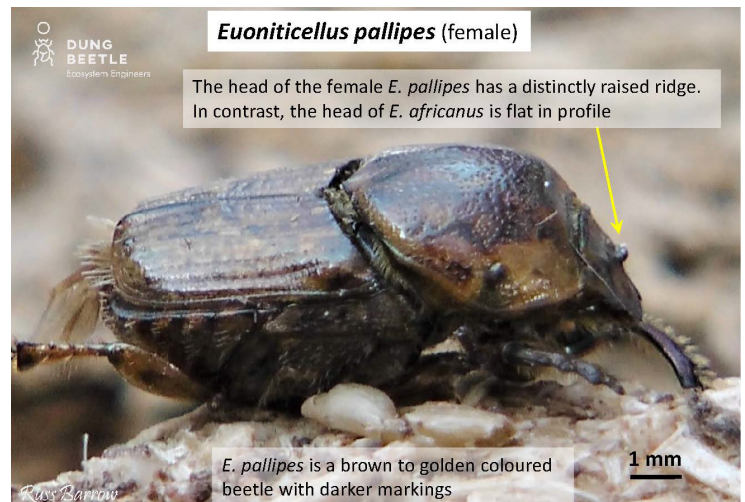
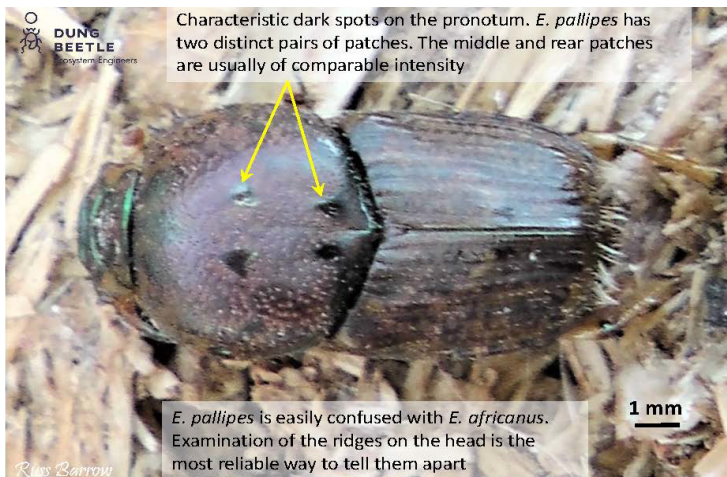
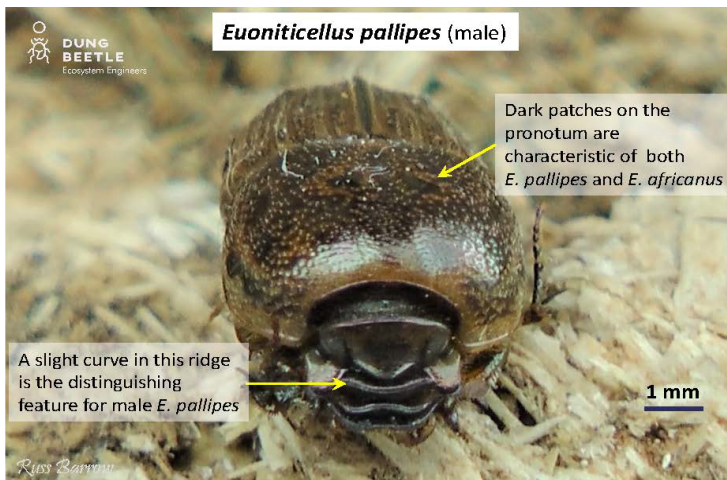
Similar species *E. pallipes* female has a small ridge between eyes, but *E. africanus* female has none. *E. pallipes* male has shallowly arched ridge between eyes, which is strongly curved in male *E. africanus*.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

Size: 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

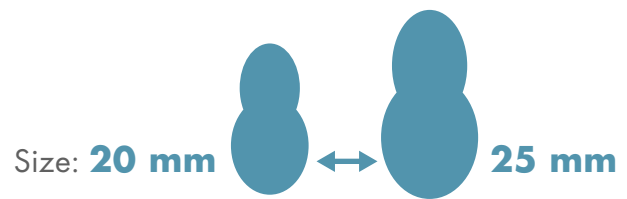
Similar species unlikely to be confused with any other species of dung beetle found in Australia.



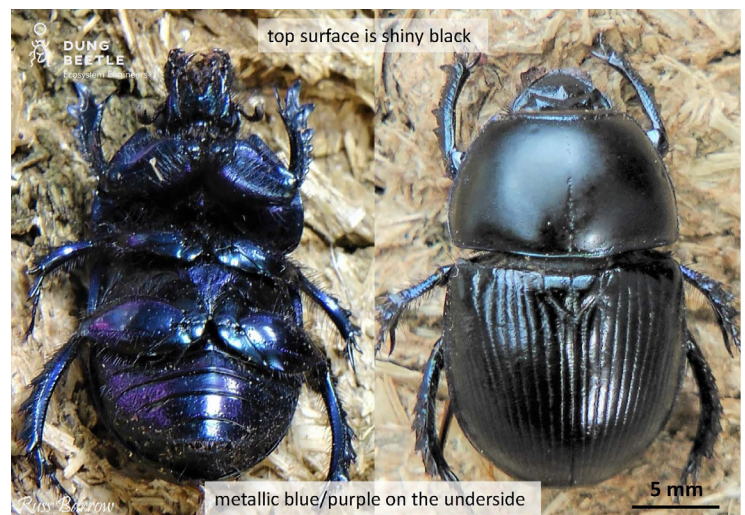
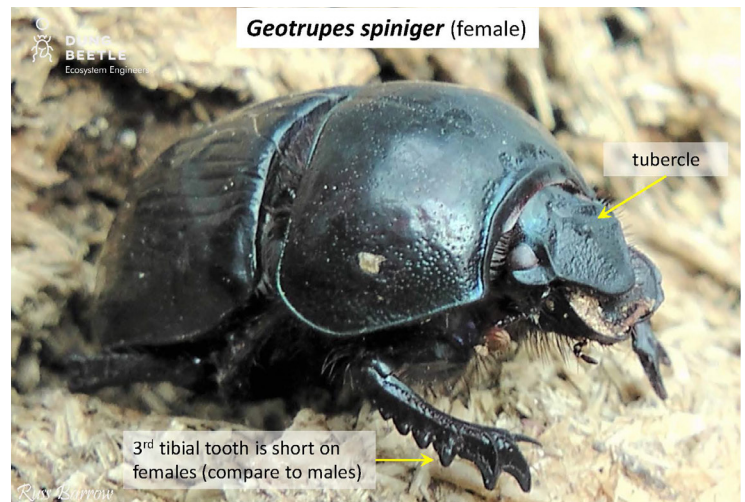
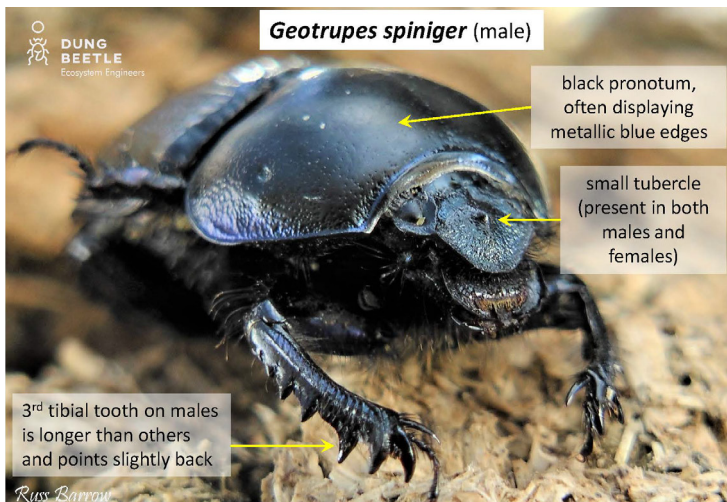
Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive



Burrowing depth
20 – 28 cm



Onitis aygulus

Tunneler



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

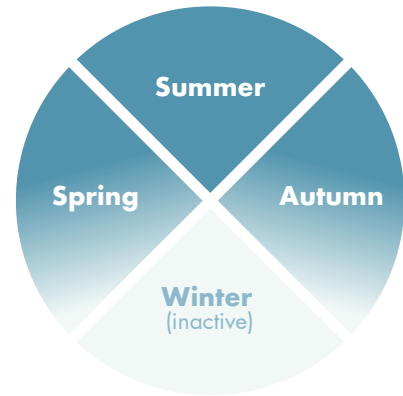
Horns female has distinct bump at back of head and a ridge close to front of head

Flight time dusk and dawn

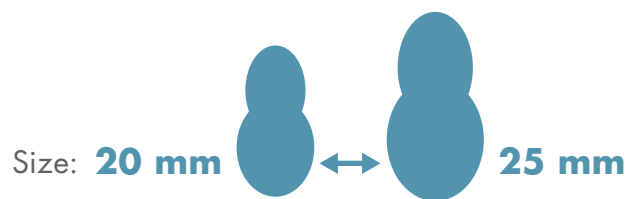
Distribution WA, SA, VIC, NSW

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

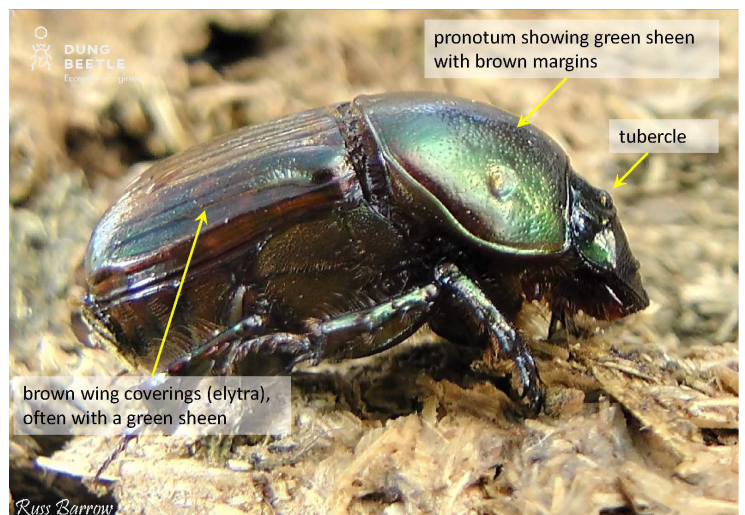
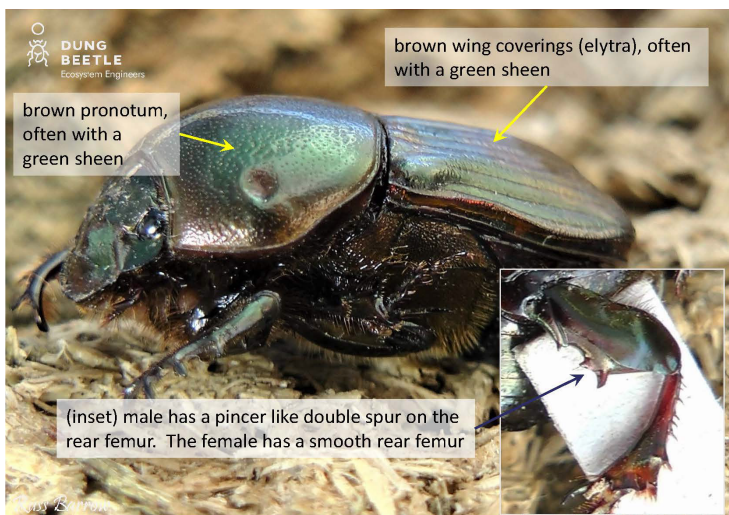
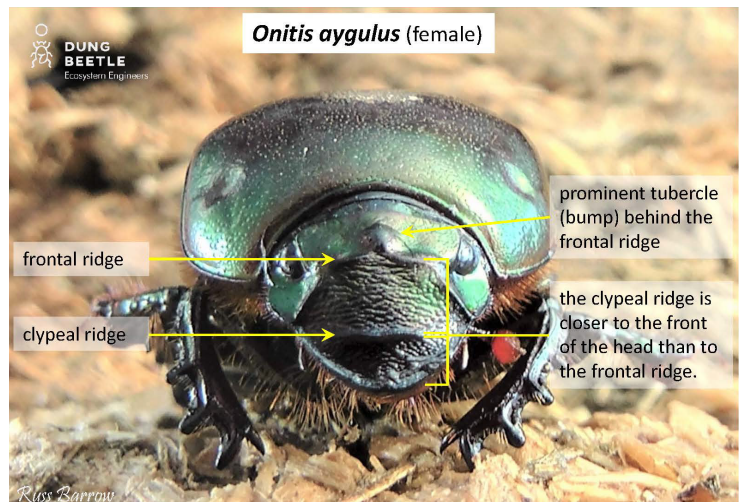
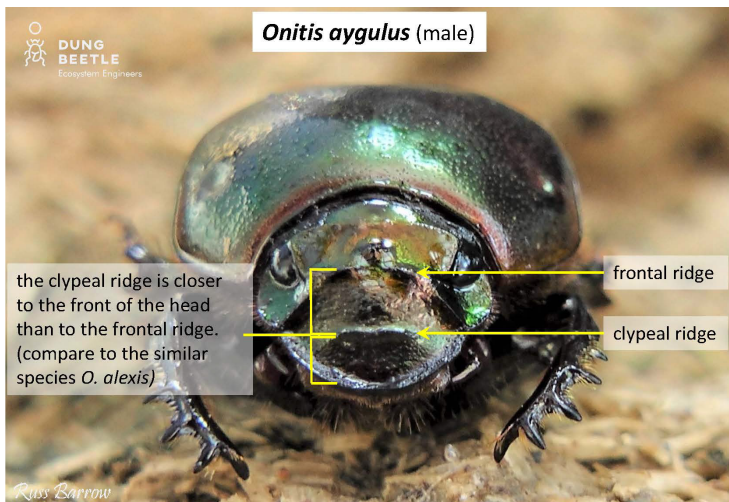


■ Active □ Inactive



Burrowing depth

5 – 16 cm



Onthophagus binodis



Tunneler

Colour matt black

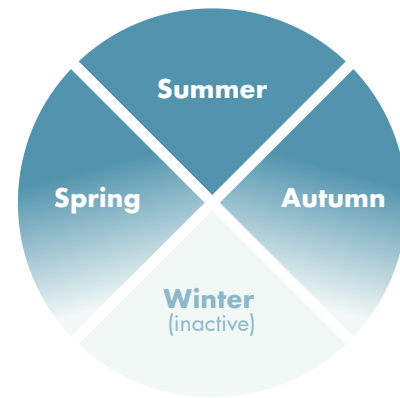
Horns large lobe at front of pronotum (males), smaller in females

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

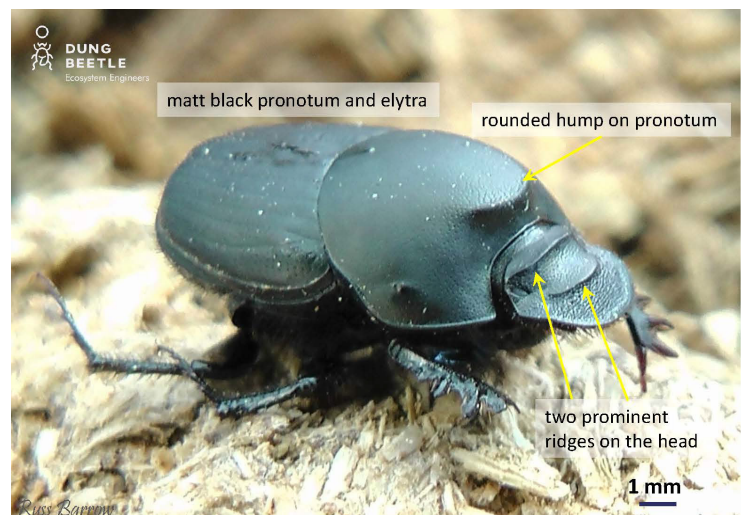
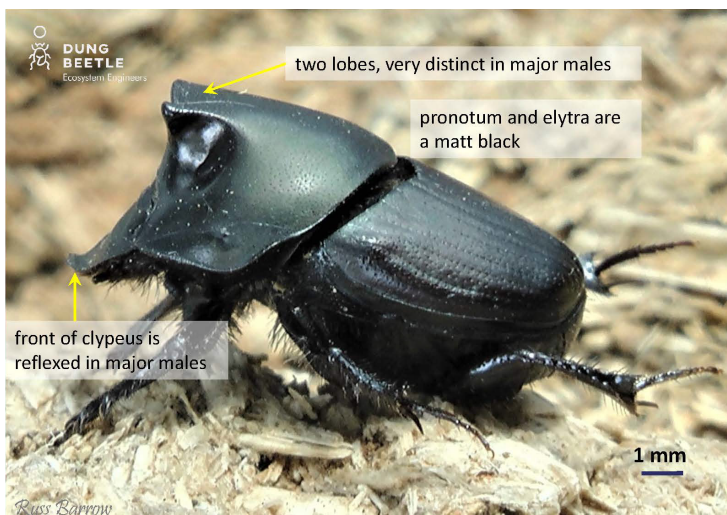
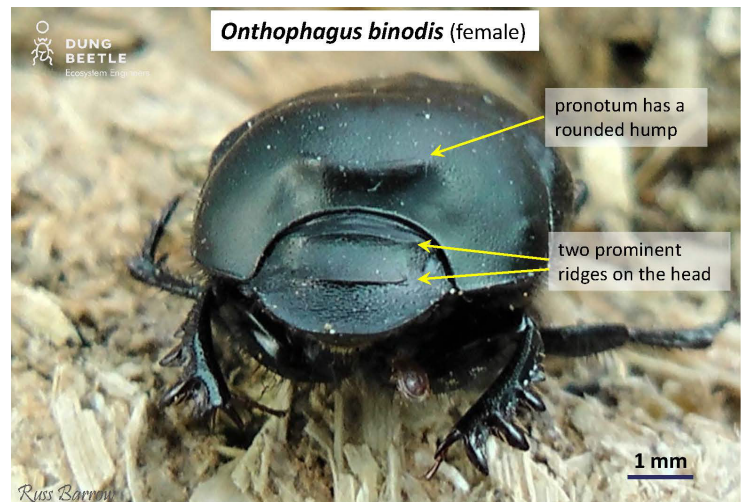
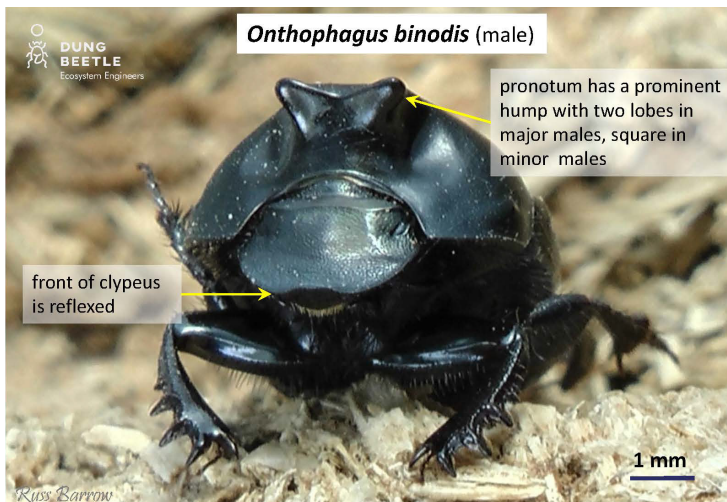


■ Active □ Inactive

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

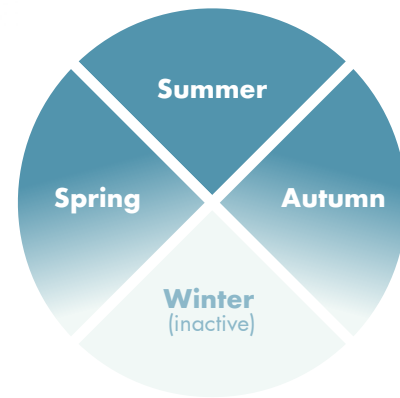
Flight time day

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

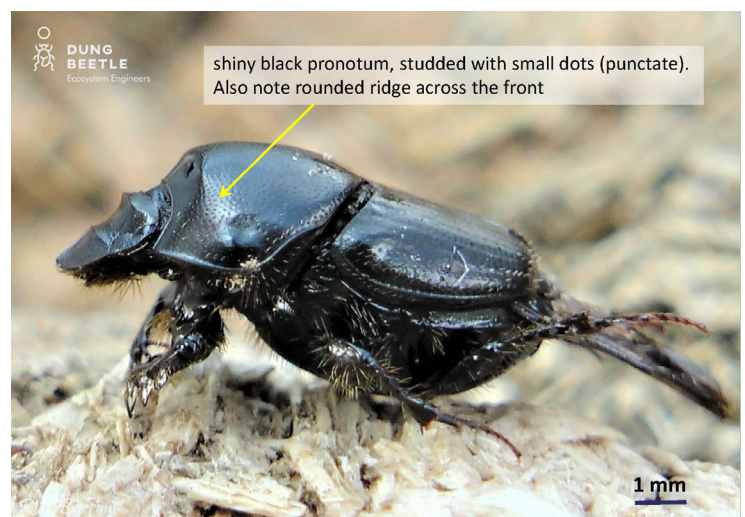
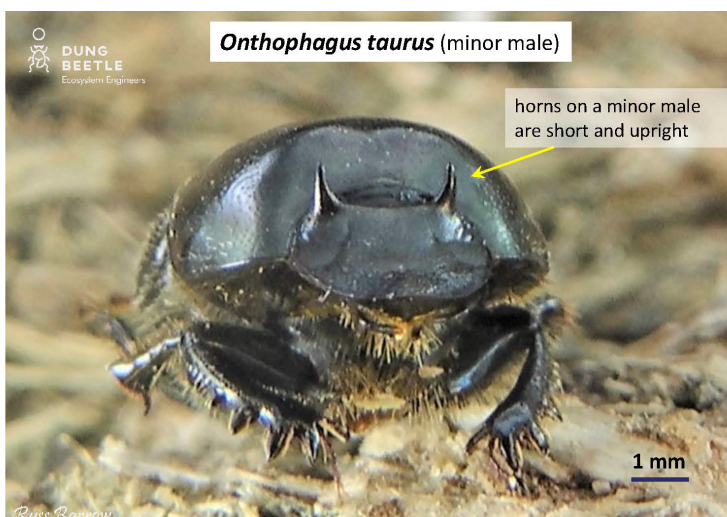
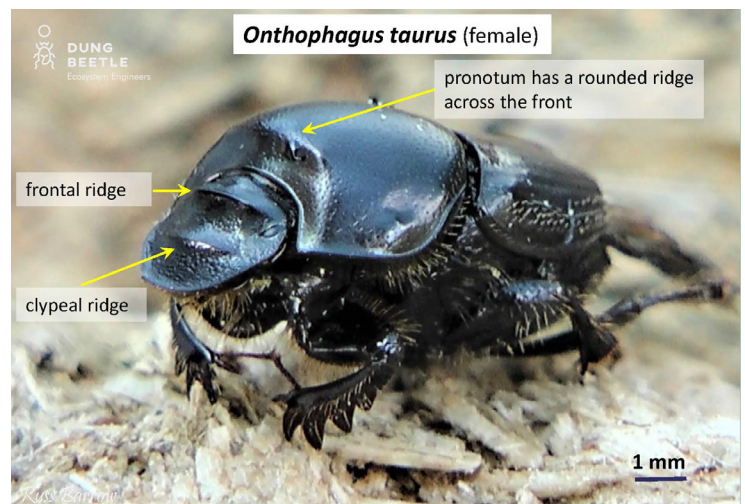
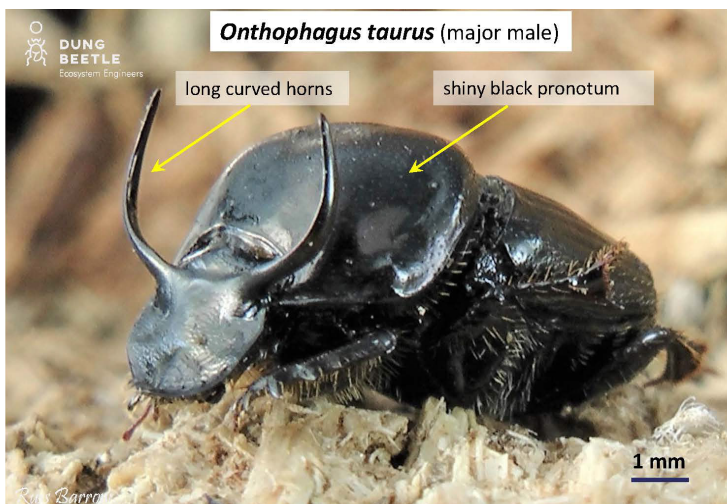


■ Active □ Inactive

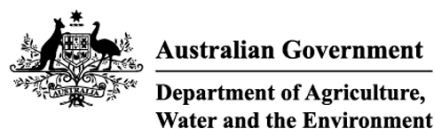
Size: **8 mm** ↔ **10 mm**

Burrowing depth

8 – 13 cm



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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