

What's in your dung?

A guide to dung beetle species in the Central West.



**DUNG
BEETLE**

Ecosystem Engineers



REGIONAL GUIDE

Central West

Central West

Dung beetle species that are commonly found in the region.

Introduced



Aphodius
fimetarius
Dweller



Digitonthophagus
gazella
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
africanus
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
fulvus
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
intermedius
Tunneler



Euoniticellus
pallipes
Tunneler



Onitis
alexis
Tunneler



Onitis
aygulus
Tunneler



Onthophagus
taurus
Tunneler

Natives



Onthophagus
australis



Onthophagus
dandalu



Onthophagus
granulatus



Onthophagus
pentacanthus



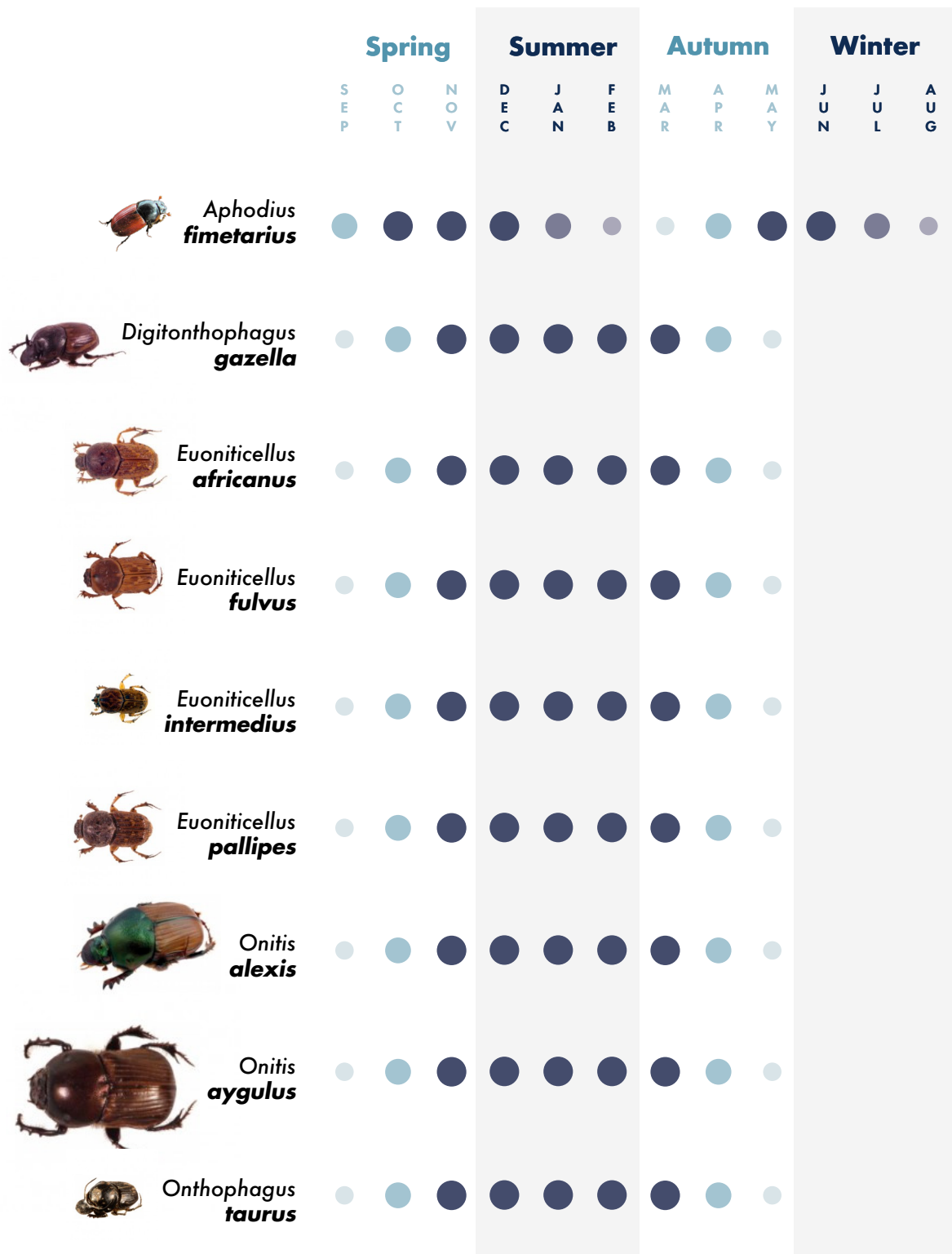
Onthophagus
tamworthi

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

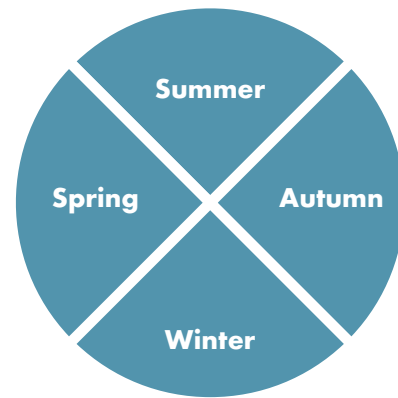
Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly Activity entire year

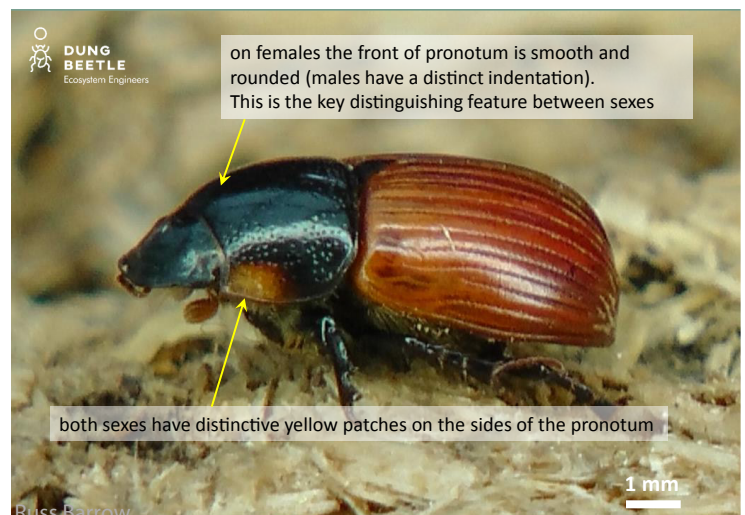
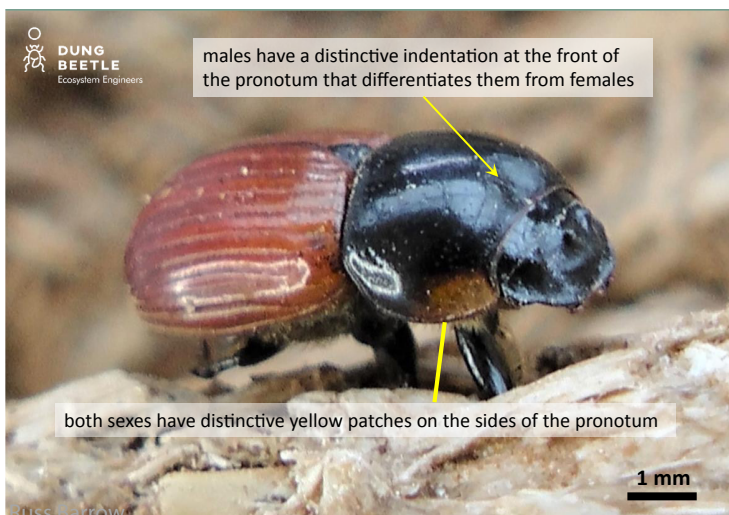
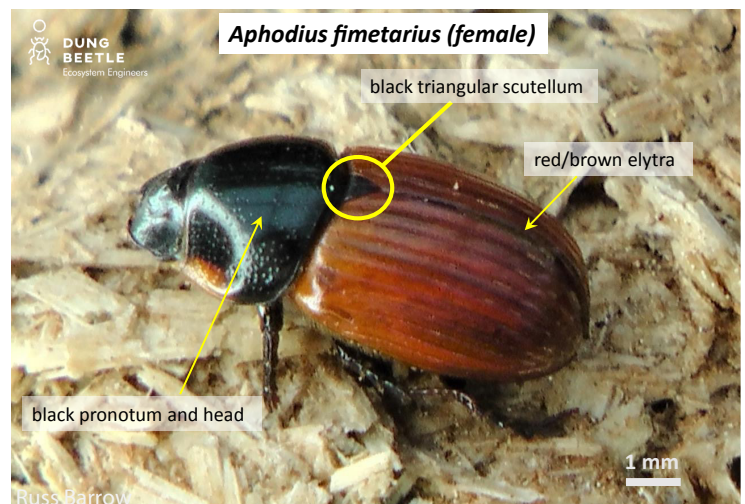
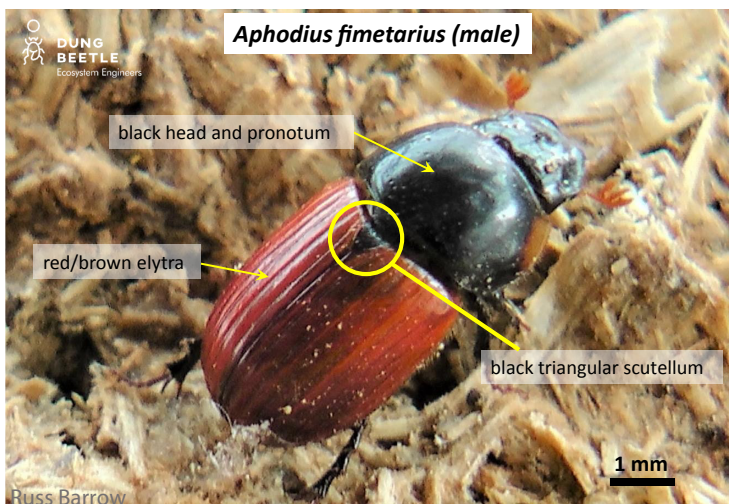
Distribution southern Australia including TAS

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

6 mm ↔ 9 mm



Digitonthophagus gazella

Seasonal activity

Tunneler

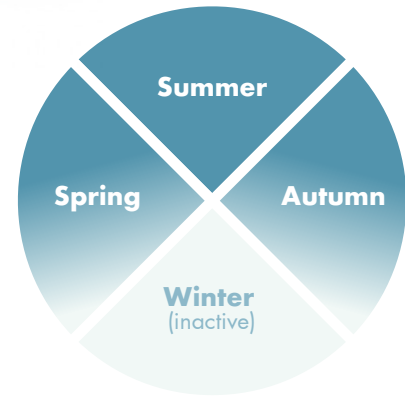
Colour two-toned; dark brown pronotum, lighter brown elytra

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

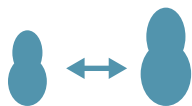
Flight time dusk and dawn

Minor minor males have smaller horns

Distribution northern and eastern Australia

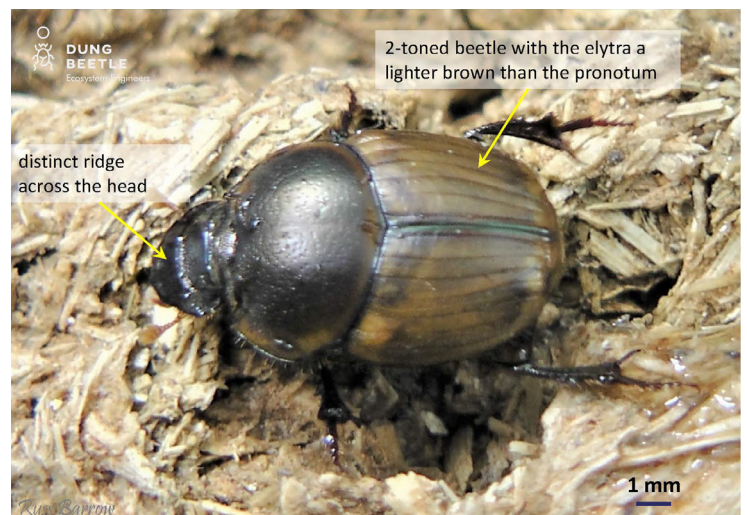
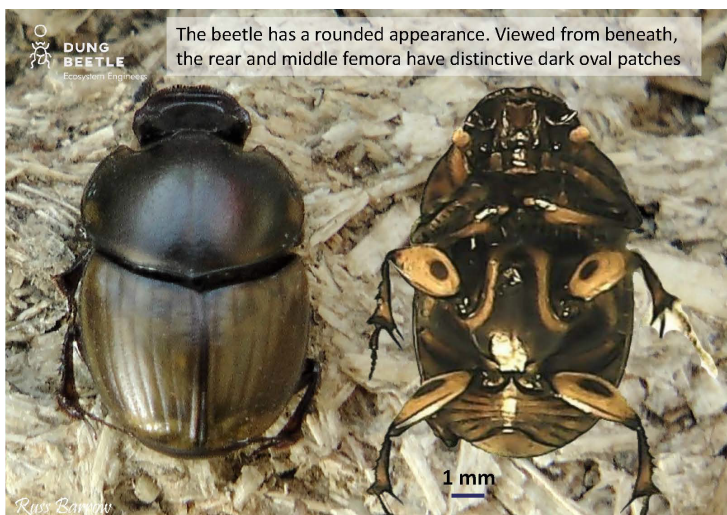
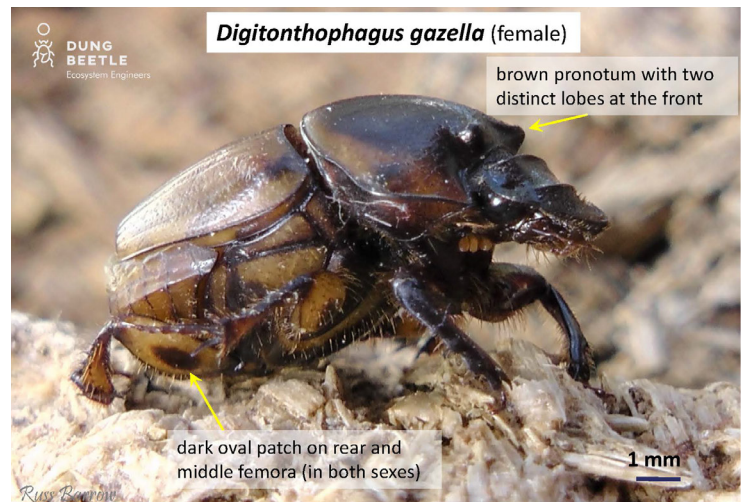
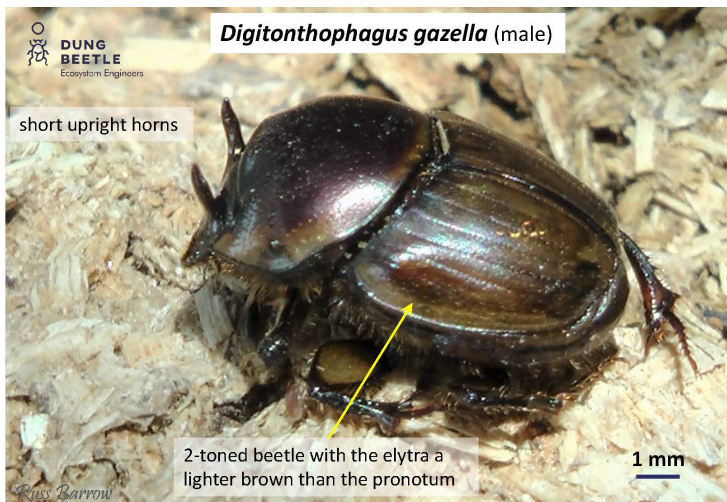


■ Active □ Inactive

10 mm  13 mm

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

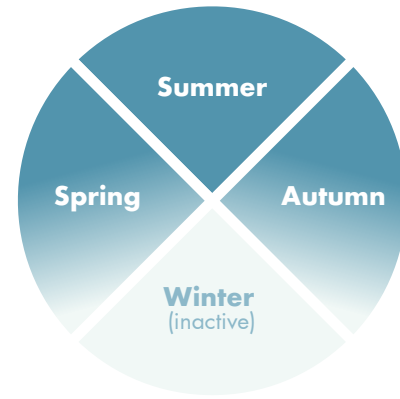
Horns none

Flight time day

Distribution southeast QLD, eastern NSW

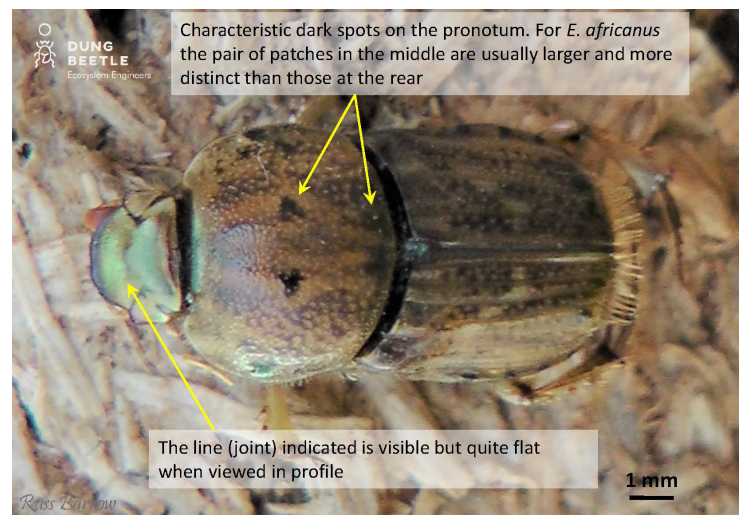
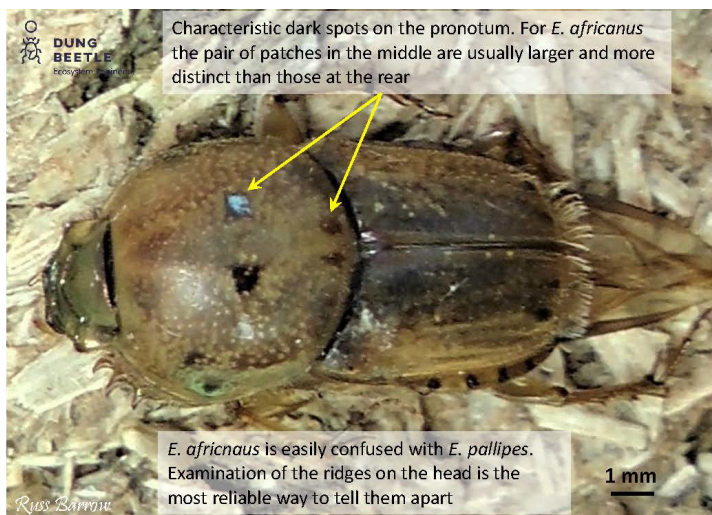
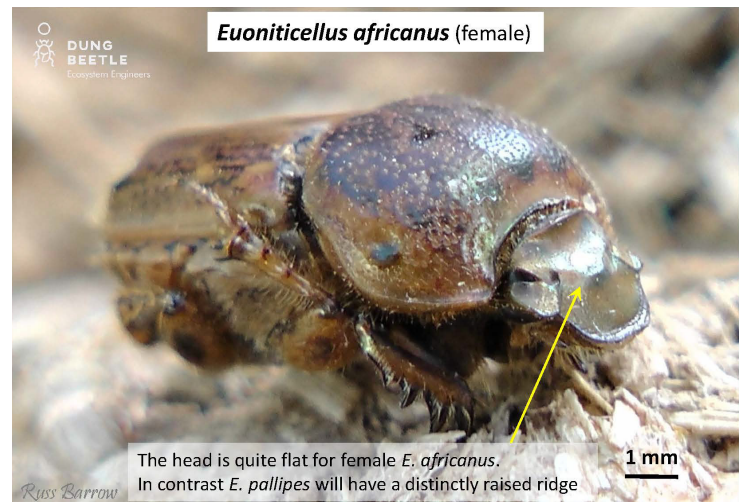
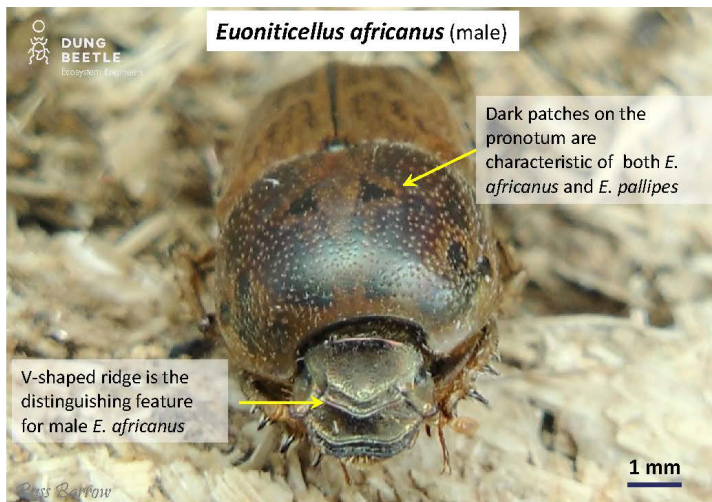
Similar Species *E. pallipes* female has a small ridge between eyes, but *E. africanus* has none. *E. pallipes* male has shallowly arched ridge between eyes, which is strongly curved in *E. africanus*.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

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

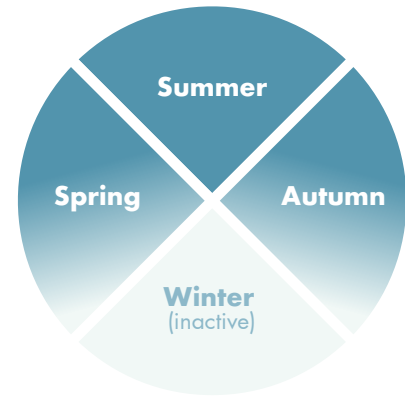
Horns none; males have two ridges at front of head but females have none

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

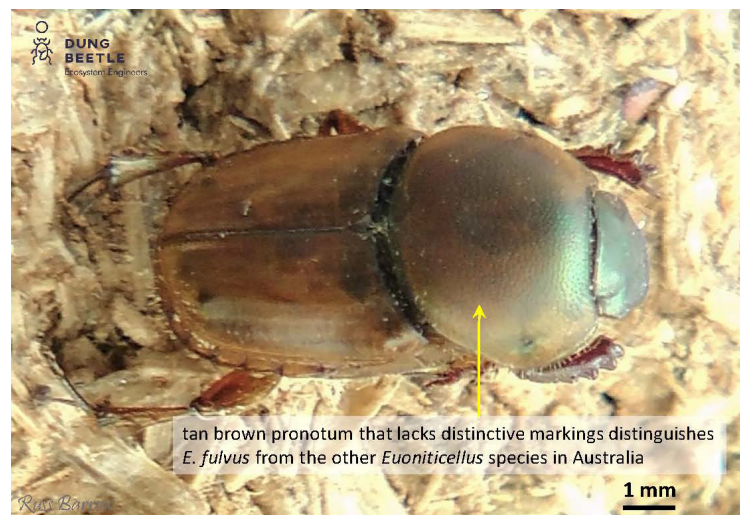
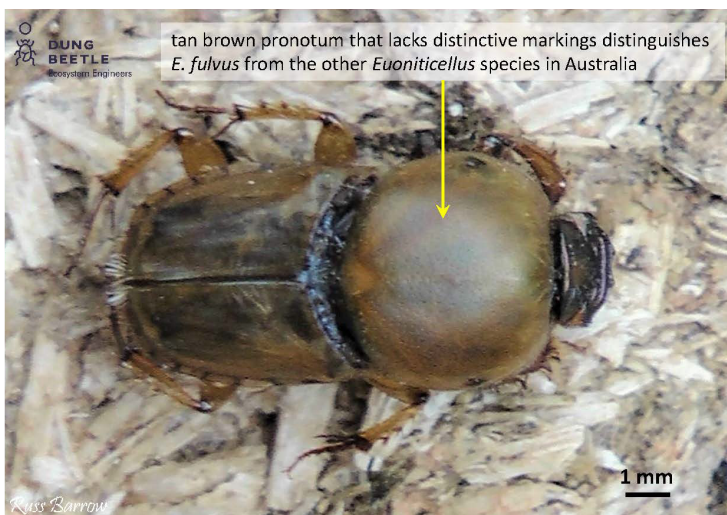
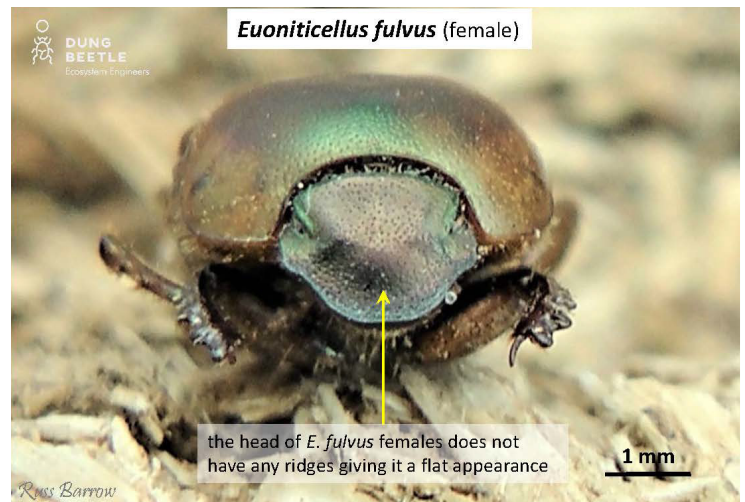
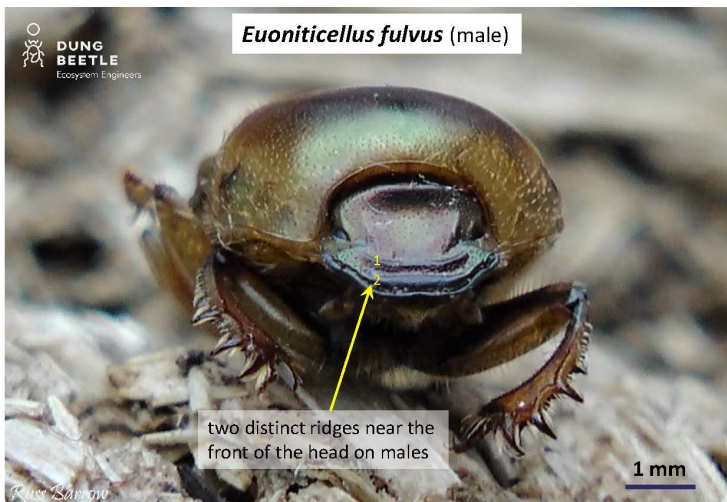


■ Active □ Inactive

8 mm  ↔  12 mm

Burrowing depth

17 – 23 cm



Euoniticellus intermedius



Tunneler

Colour yellow–brown, with diamond pattern on pronotum

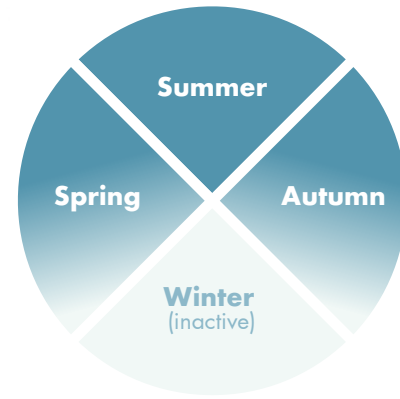
Horns males have a blunt horn in middle of head; females have a ridge between the eyes

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

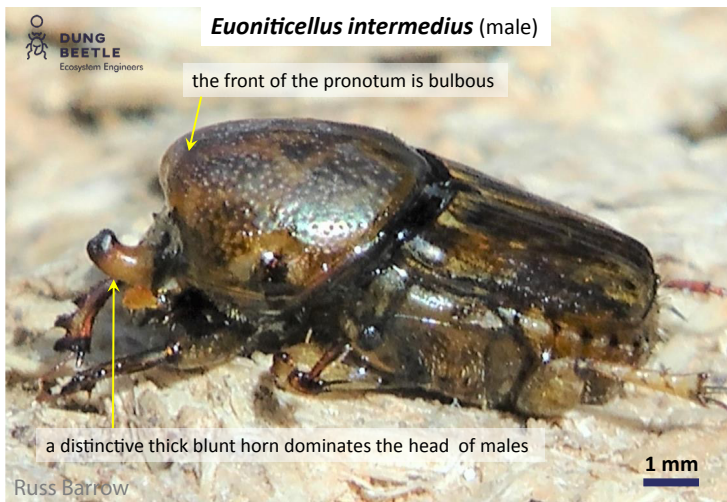


Active Inactive

7 mm ↔ 9 mm

Burrowing depth

11 – 19 cm

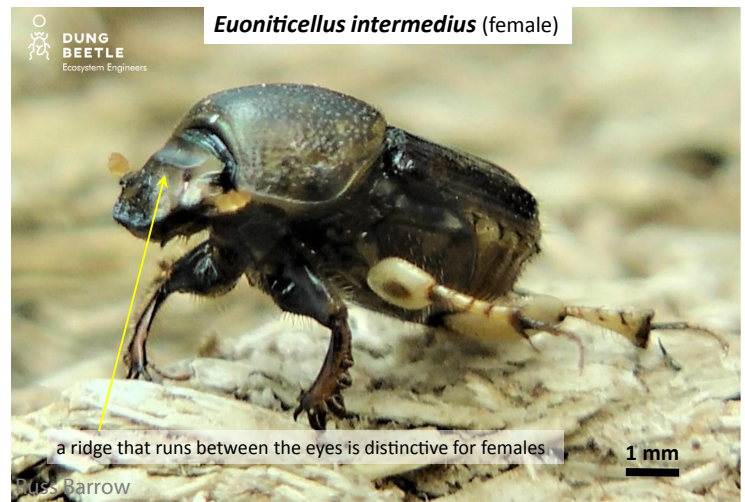


Euoniticellus intermedius (male)

the front of the pronotum is bulbous

a distinctive thick blunt horn dominates the head of males

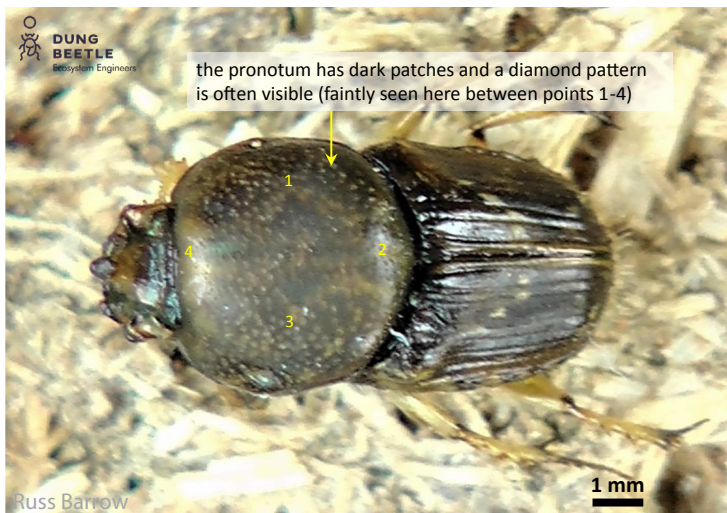
Russ Barrow



Euoniticellus intermedius (female)

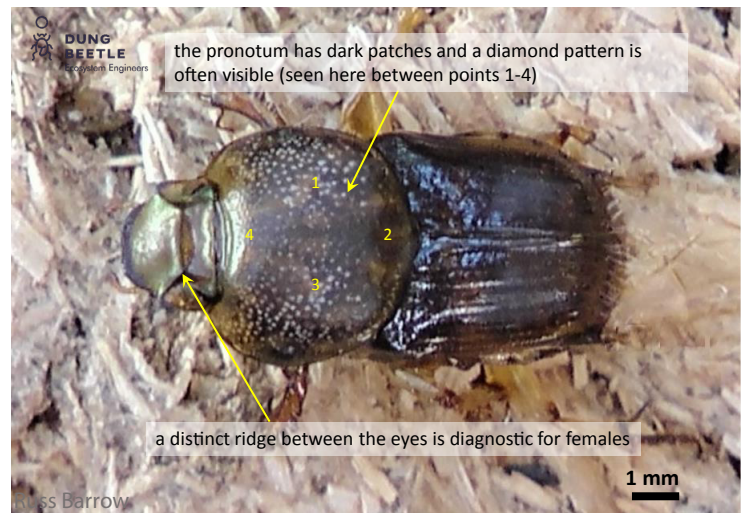
a ridge that runs between the eyes is distinctive for females

Russ Barrow



the pronotum has dark patches and a diamond pattern is often visible (faintly seen here between points 1-4)

Russ Barrow



the pronotum has dark patches and a diamond pattern is often visible (seen here between points 1-4)

a distinct ridge between the eyes is diagnostic for females

Russ Barrow

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

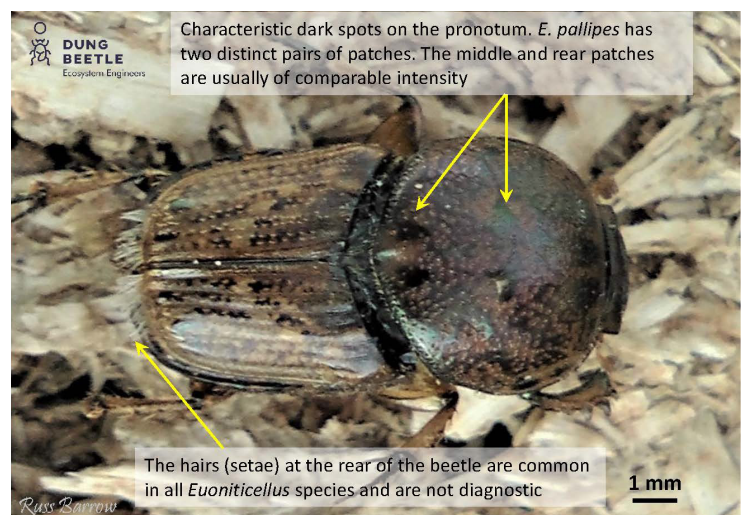
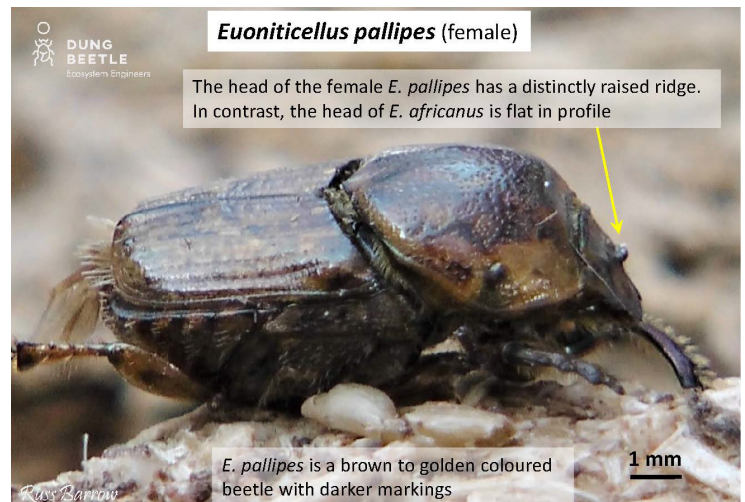
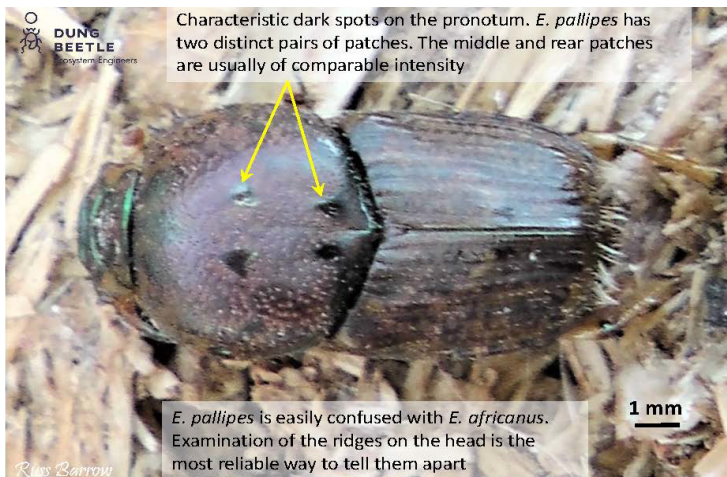
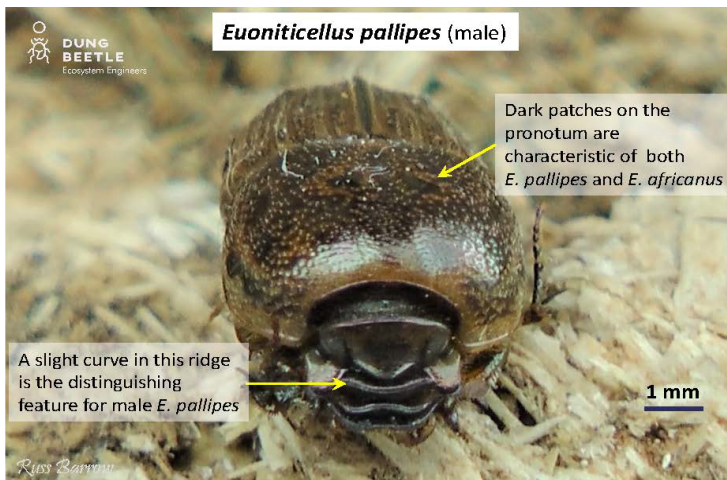
Similar Species *E. pallipes* female has a small ridge between eyes, but *E. africanus* female has none. *E. pallipes* male has shallowly arched ridge between eyes, which is strongly curved in male *E. africanus*.

Seasonal activity



■ Active □ Inactive

9 mm ↔ 12 mm



Onitis alexis



Tunneler

Colour green/coppery pronotum, light brown wing covers

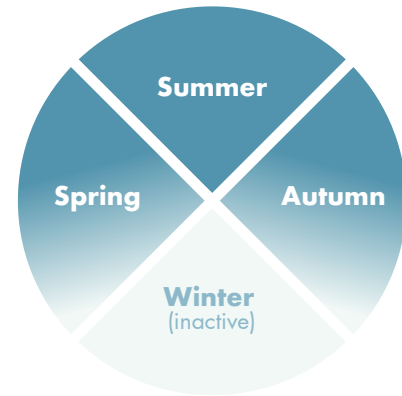
Horns both sexes have a ridge midway between eyes and front of head; female has distinct bump at back of head

Flight time dusk and dawn

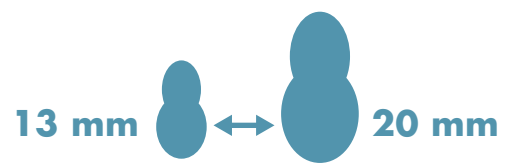
Distribution all of Australia except TAS

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

Seasonal activity

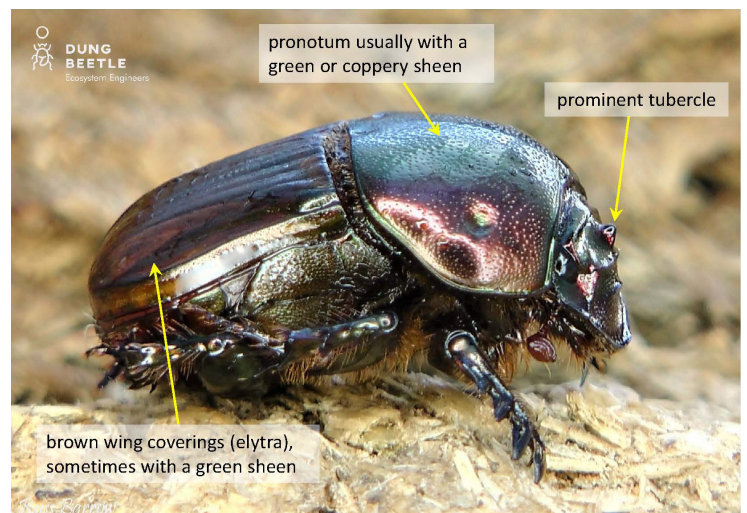
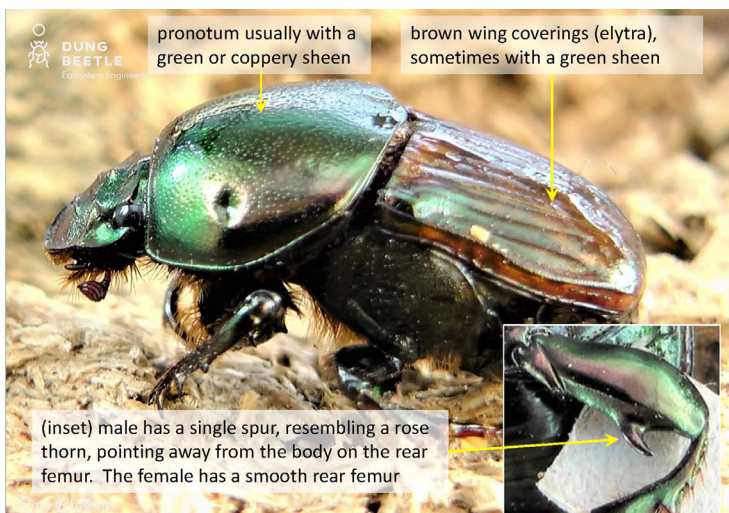
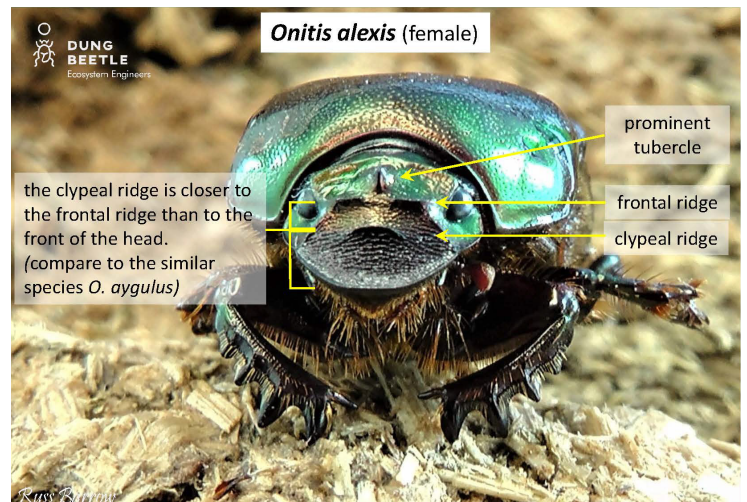
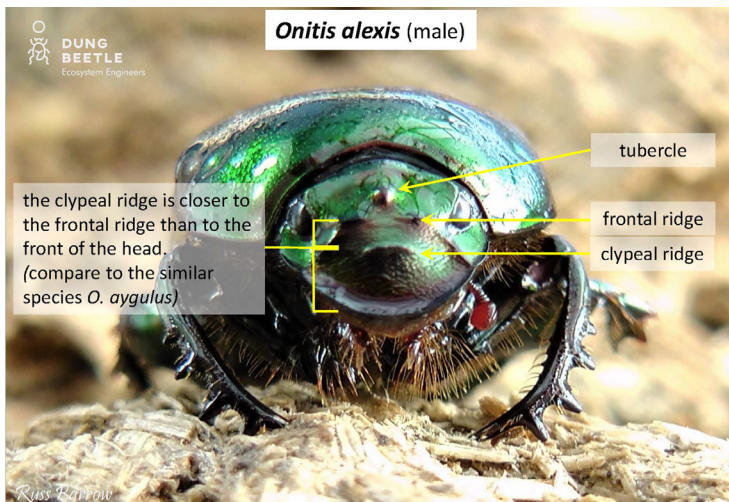


Active Inactive



Burrowing depth

20 – 65 cm



Onitis aygulus

Tunneler



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

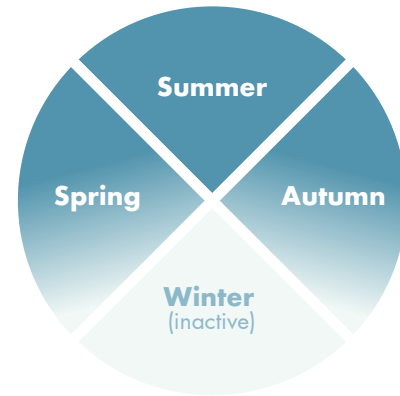
Horns female has distinct bump at back of head and a ridge close to front of head

Flight time dusk and dawn

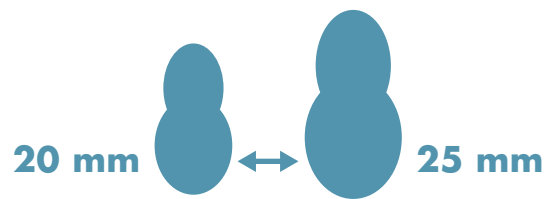
Distribution WA, SA, VIC, NSW

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

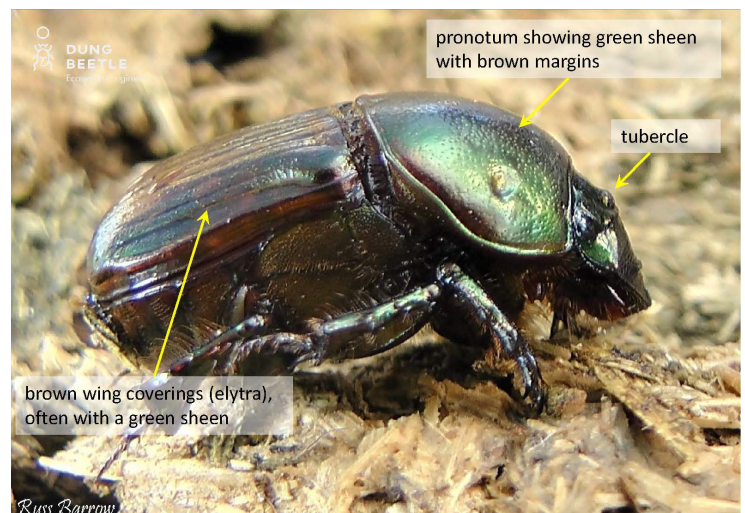
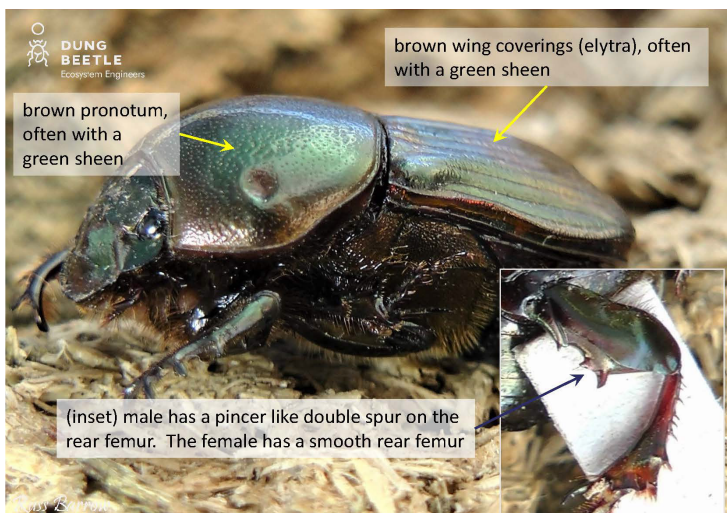
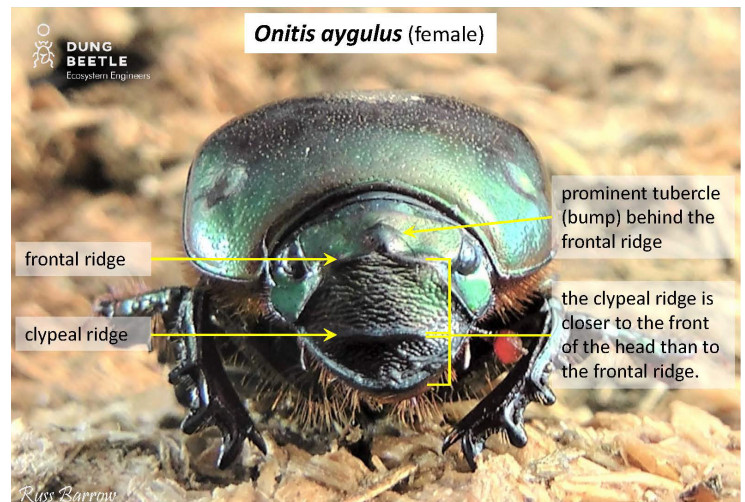
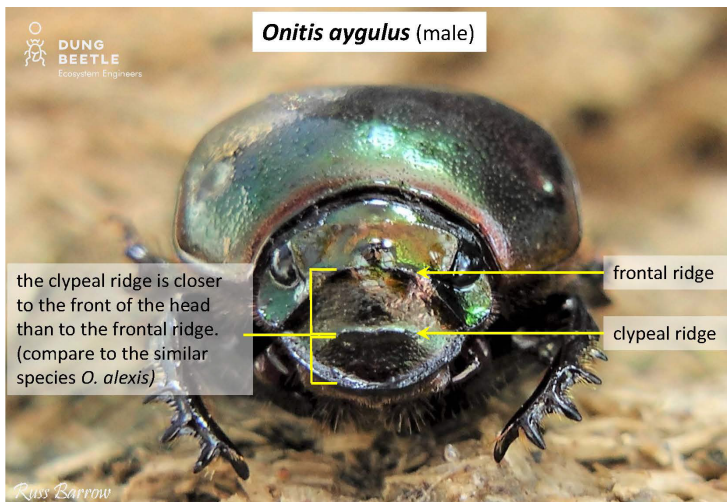


■ Active □ Inactive



Burrowing depth

5 – 16 cm



Onthophagus taurus



Tunneler

Colour shiny black

Horns males have long, curved horns; females have none

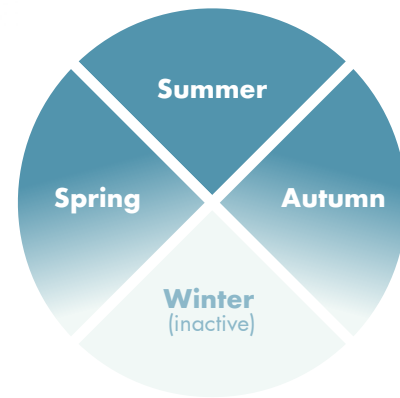
Flight time day

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

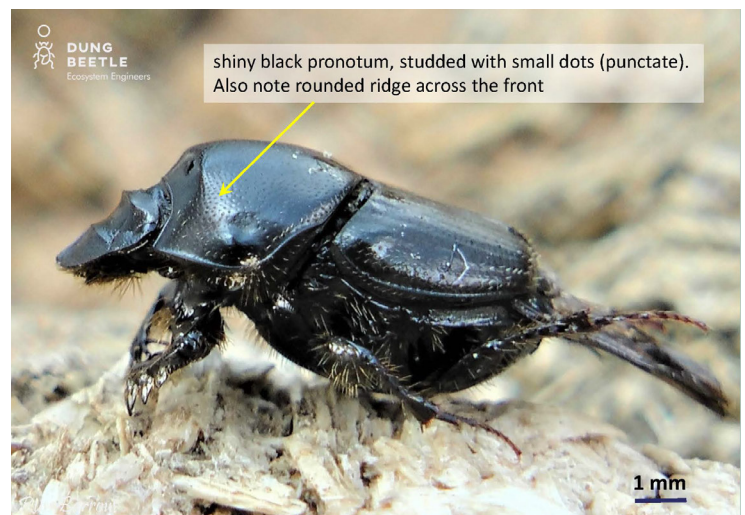
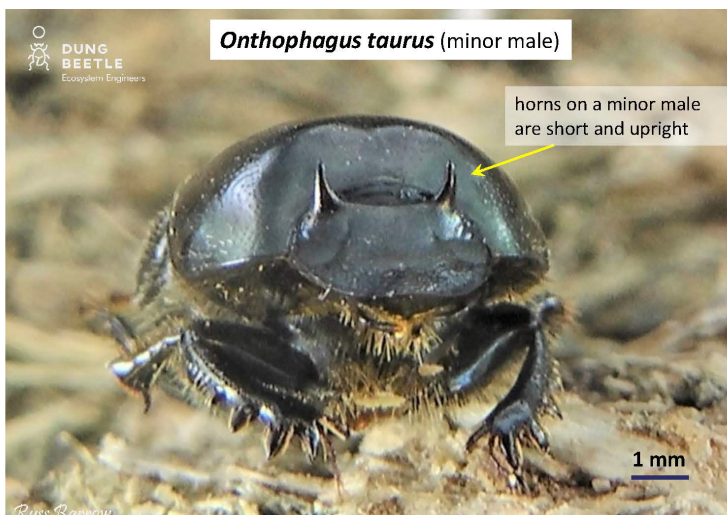
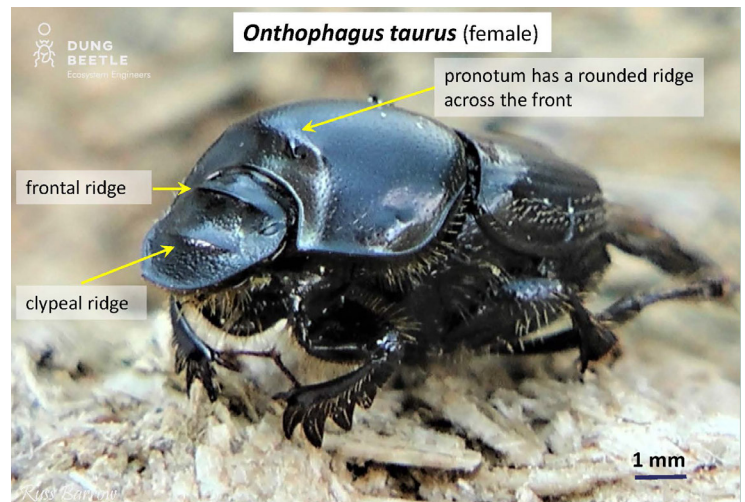
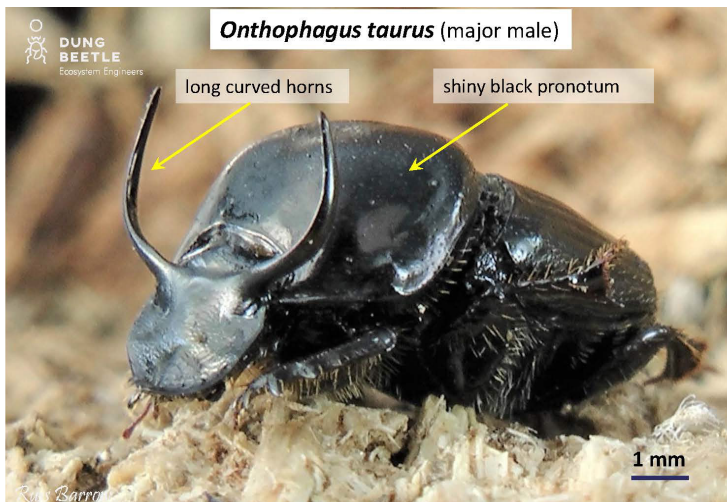


■ Active □ Inactive

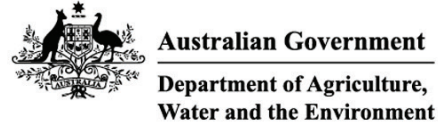
8 mm ↔ 10 mm

Burrowing depth

8 – 13 cm



This project was co-funded, as part of the *DBEE project*, by Meat & Livestock Australia, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water and the Environment (DAWE) – as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme. It was also co-funded by the *Smart Farms Small Grants* program, also supported by DAWE and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF).



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