

Rapid flotation sampling of dung beetles

What you need to do:

1. Find a dung pat that is 1 – 2 days old
2. Put it in a bucket with water and stir
3. Skim off the floating insects, collect them, mail them



1 Find a dung pat



✗ Not too fresh



✗ Not too old

1 or 2 days old



✓ Just right!

2 Take a photo of the dung pat and soil castings, and put them in a bucket of water

Creep up on the beetles quietly!



Take photos of dung pat and any soil castings or holes



Put dung and topsoil into a bucket



Add water and stir!

Beetles float to the top!

3 Collect beetles



Stir...
Skim...
Stir...
Skim...



Skim off all beetles and other insects with a fine sieve, and rinse into a sample jar.

4 Preserve the beetles



Cover insects with: 'pet-safe' antifreeze (propylene glycol) or regular car coolant (antifreeze)

Keep all insects, not just dung beetles – we are interested in predator numbers too!

5 Report what you found and mail the sample

Use the MyDungBeetle™ Reporter app



This will automatically notify dung beetle experts to expect your sample in the mail – and they will tell you what beetles you caught!



See over page for more details

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Make a report using the MyDungBeetle™ Reporter app


Download the **free** app from the store




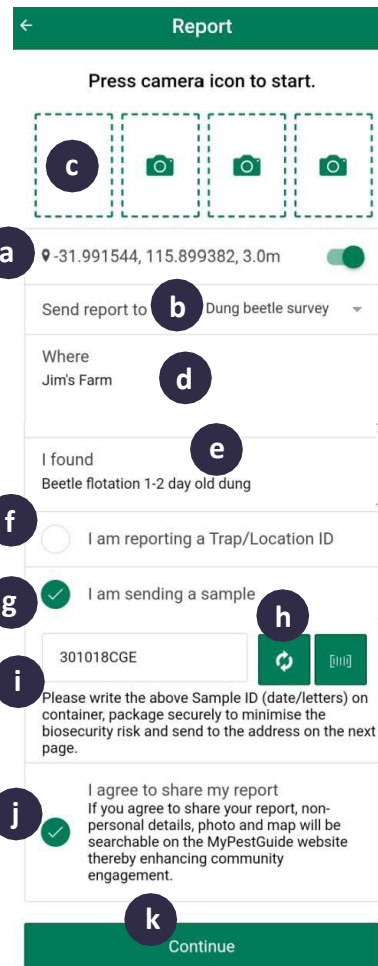
MyDungBeetle™ Reporter



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Open the App. Select the  symbol, then:

- Check **GPS** location is turned on (automatic).
- Select '**Dung beetle survey**' from the drop-down list.
- Press the top left camera icon. Select '**Take Photo**' or select '**Attach Photo**' to add photos of the dung pat that you took earlier with your phone camera. You can add up to 3 more photos of your sampling!
- In box labelled '**Where**', write farm or location name
- In box labelled '**I found**', write "**Beetle flotation**"
- Skip '**I am reporting a Trap/Location ID**'
- Select '**I am sending a sample**'
- When it appears, press the  icon.
- A **sample code number** will automatically appear in the box. **Write** this number on the sample jar with a permanent marker and we will be able to tell where the sample came from.
- Select '**I agree to share my report**'.
- Press '**Continue**'. Check your '**State**', '**Email**' and '**Mobile**' details are correct then press '**Send**'.

Report

Press camera icon to start.

a -31.991544, 115.899382, 3.0m



Send report to **b** Dung beetle survey

Where
Jim's Farm **d**

I found **e**
Beetle flotation 1-2 day old dung

f I am reporting a Trap/Location ID

g I am sending a sample **h**

i 301018CGE  

Please write the above Sample ID (date/letters) on container, package securely to minimise the biosecurity risk and send to the address on the next page.

j I agree to share my report
If you agree to share your report, non-personal details, photo and map will be searchable on the MyPestGuide website thereby enhancing community engagement.

k Continue

Every report you make contributes to a national database of dung beetle distributions on different soil types and climate zones.

Ready to send the sample?

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