

Introduced dung beetles typically suited to Northern Australia

Also commonly found in isolated pockets where introduction may have previously occurred

Sisyphus spinipes

Origin – Southern Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya



Genus *Sisyphus*

Length 9–11 mm

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*.

Roller

Other notes

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

Onitis alexis

Origin – Warm dry parts of Africa south of the Sahara and in Southern Europe



Genus *Onitis*

Length 13–20 mm

Colour green/coppery pronotum, light brown wing covers

Horns

Both sexes have a ridge midway between eyes and front of head; fe- male has distinct bump at back of head

Flight time dusk and dawn

Yearly Activity spring to autumn

Distribution all of Australia except TAS

Similar Species

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

Onthophagus gazella

Origin – Southern and Eastern Africa south of the Sahara



Genus *Onthophagus*

Length 10–13 mm

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

Yearly Activity spring to autumn

Minor male/female minor males have smaller horns

Distribution

northern and eastern Australia (up to the VIC border)

Similar Species

Female *Onthophagus nigriventris* is similar, but has a black underside with no leg markings as above.

Liatongus militaris

Origin – Southern and Eastern Africa



Genus *Liatongus*

Length 8–10 mm

Colour

brown to dark brown; distinctive black broken stripes on wing covers. Yellow 'shoulder patches' and a dark oval patch on the top and bottom of each femur.

Horns none

Flight time day

Yearly Activity spring to autumn

Distribution QLD, NT, northeast NSW

Similar Species Unlikely to be confused with other species.

Euoniticellus intermedius

Origin – Africa South of the Sahara



Genus *Euoniticellus*

Length 7–9 mm

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

Yearly Activity spring to autumn

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.

Sisyphus rubrus

Origin – Southern Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe



Genus *Sisyphus*

Length 6–8 mm

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*.

Roller