

# Commonly harvested introduced Dung beetles by Soilcam

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

## *Onitis viridulus*

Origin – Africa, From Ethiopia to Northern South Africa



**Genus** *Onitis*  
**Length** 18–23 mm  
**Colour** dark brown/black, often with green sheen  
**Horns** none  
**Flight time** dusk and dawn  
**Yearly Activity** spring to autumn  
**Distribution** QLD, NT, NE WA, northeast NSW  
**Similar Species**  
 Can easily be confused with *O. pecuarius*, 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).

## *Onthophagus taurus*

Origin – North Africa, Spain, Portugal, France, Turkey, Greece, and Morocco



**Genus** *Onthophagus*  
**Length** 8–10 mm  
**Colour** shiny black  
**Horns** males have long, curved horns; females have none  
**Flight time** day  
**Yearly Activity** spring to autumn  
**Minor male/female**  
 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.

## *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).

## *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**

## *Onitis pecuarius*

Origin – Southern and Eastern Africa



**Genus** *Onitis*  
**Length** 15–20 mm  
**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).

## *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.

## *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.

## *Euoniticellus fulvus*

Origin – Western and central Europe including Turkey, France, Iran, Spain, Greece, Austria, and Morocco



**Genus** *Euoniticellus*

**Length** 8–12 mm

**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

**Yearly Activity** spring to autumn

**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.

## *Onitis caffer*

Origin – South Africa – Generally a winter active species



**Genus** *Onitis*

**Length** 15–20 mm

**Colour**

shiny black, with pronotum nearly 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.

## *Bubas bison*

Origin – Native to Europe. Species introduced from Spain and France



**Genus** *Bubas*

**Length** 13–19 mm

**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

**Yearly Activity**

autumn–winter (occasionally through early spring)

**Minor male/female**

horn on each side of head, but not on pronotum

**Distribution** WA, SA, VIC, southern NSW

## *Onthophagus binodis*

Origin – Native to South Africa



**Genus** *Onthophagus*

**Length** 11–13 mm

**Colour** matt black

**Horns**

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

**Flight time** day

**Yearly Activity** late spring to autumn

**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.