

## *Onthophagus binodis*

- Tunnelling species
- 11–13 mm in length
- Matt black in colour
- Lobe on the pronotum which is generally larger in males
- Active late spring to autumn
- Originated from South Africa, in areas with annual rainfall of more than 500 mm
- Flies to fresh pads during the day
- Females lay 1-3 eggs per day
- Adult life span during summer approximately 9 weeks



## *Onthophagus granulatus*

- Tunnelling species
- Small beetle, 6-8 mm in length
- Brown with small black markings
- Males (major) have a greatly elongated front foreleg – in minor males it is not so elongated but is still slender
- Females are very similar to males but do not have elongated front forelegs
- Active spring to autumn
- Native to Australia
- Flies to fresh pads during the day



## *Onthophagus australis*

- Tunnelling species
- 7-12 mm in length
- Black in colour with a green to coppery sheen
- Males (major) have two backwardly inclined horns on the head
- Females and minor males have no horns
- Active spring to autumn
- Native to Australia
- Flies to fresh pads during the day



## *Onthophagus gazella*

- Tunnelling species
- Rounded beetle, 10-13 mm in length
- Tow-tone effect, the pronotum is usually darker in colour than the wing covers, which are typically light brown
- Some males have a pair of short straight horns on the head
- Active spring to autumn
- Originated from hotter, drier parts of Africa, south of the Sahara
- Flies to fresh pads from dusk to dawn
- Females can produce 1-2 brood balls per day
- Adult life span during summer is about 2 months



# The Northern Tablelands dung beetle express



## 10 Common Dung Beetle Species of the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales

Information has been sourced from the Queensland Dung Beetle Project and “Common Dung Beetles of South Eastern Australia” by Marina Tyndale-Biscoe.

Photographs kindly supplied by CSIRO and the Dung Beetles for Landcare Farming Committee.

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## *Euoniticellus africanus*

- Tunnelling species
- Narrow beetle, 8-13 mm in length
- Light to dark brown, pronotum and wing covers speckled with dark markings
- Pronotum has two glossy black triangles
- Active spring to autumn
- Originated from Mozambique, Lesotho and South Africa
- Flies to fresh pads during the day
- Adult life span is 2-3 months



## *Euoniticellus intermedius*

- Tunnelling species
- Narrow beetle, 7-9 mm in length
- Yellow-brown or straw coloured, pronotum has symmetrical dark markings
- Males have a curved, blunt horn on the head
- Active spring to autumn, and during warm spells even into winter
- Originated from the warm, moist parts of Africa, from South Africa to the Sahel and Arabia
- Widely distributed throughout the warmer regions of Australia
- Flies to fresh pads during the day
- Females can lay about 2 eggs per day
- Adult life span during summer is 1-2 months



## *Onitis alexis*

- Tunnelling species
- Large beetle, 15-20 mm in length
- Two-tone effect, pronotum dark brown with a coppery or green sheen, wing covers light brown
- Males have a single "rose thorn" spur on rear edge of the hind leg
- Active spring to autumn
- Originated from warmer, drier regions of Africa & southern Europe
- Flies to fresh pads mainly at dusk and dawn, a few beetles fly during the night
- Females can lay up to 3 eggs per day
- Adult life span during summer is approx. 3 months



## *Onitis caffer*

- Tunnelling species
- Stocky beetle, 15-20 mm in length
- Black in colour
- Males have a serrated ridge on the rear edge of the hind leg
- Summer rainfall strain is active from autumn to early/mid winter and the winter rainfall strain may become active again in spring
- Originated from South Africa
- Flies at dusk and dawn
- Buries dung in several short "sausages" containing 1 - 4 eggs at depths of up to 1 m
- Development from egg to adult takes between 10 and 12 months



## *Onitis pecuarius*

- Tunnelling species
- Large beetle, 15-25 mm in length
- Dark brown to black in colour
- Males have an unequal double spur on the rear edge of the hind leg
- Active late spring to autumn
- Originated from summer rainfall regions of South Africa
- Flies to fresh pads at dusk and dawn
- Takes up to 4 days to commence dung burial after arrival at dung pad
- Female then lays 1 or 2 eggs per day



## *Sisyphus spinipes*

- Ball rolling species
- 9-11 mm in length
- Dark brown in colour
- Long thin middle and hind legs
- Males have a dark coloured spur at the base of the hind leg
- Males also have a sharp angle on the rear edge of the hind leg, not present in females
- Active spring to autumn
- Originated throughout central and eastern Africa
- Flies to fresh pads during the day
- Females lay about one egg per day
- Adult life span during summer is 2-3 months

