

# INSECT FACT SHEET 2

## Rhinoceros Beetle

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Scientific name: *Xylotrupes gideon*

Common names: Rhinoceros beetle,  
Elephant beetle

Order: *Coleoptera*

Family: *Scarabaeidae*



Distribution: coastal regions, north Queensland to Sydney

Life span: Adults live for around 2 – 3 months

Description: the black rhinoceros beetle can reach 70 mm in length. Male beetles are easily identified with their armour of forked horns on their head and thorax. Horn size can vary between males. Females lack any such horn structure.

Adult Beetle Diet: Rhinoceros beetles feed on the soft bark of young shoots of various trees and forest fruits and sap flows.

Larval Diet: Larvae (grubs) feed on a diet of decomposing organic matter.

Larval Habitat: underground. As they burrow around they move in and out of the layer of decomposing matter.

Adult Habitat: terrestrial. Adults fly during the night.

Ecological role: as the grubs burrow around and feed, they make droppings (insect poo) which are full of nutrients for soil health and plant growth. The grubs also assist in aerating the soil.

Picture: extra large males with horn