Guide to British Dung Beetles: ONTHOPHAGUS

**Dull Black**
- *taurus*
  - Front edge of pronotum rounded, no pale hairs on centre of elytra.
  - Distribution: Last recorded in the 19th century.
  - Presumed extinct
- *joannae*
  - Front edge of pronotum rounded, elytra with uniform pale hairs.
  - Distribution: South England, less common Central England & Wales.
- *verticornis (nutans)*
  - Front edge of pronotum indented.
  - Distribution: Last recorded from Dorset in 1926.
  - Presumed extinct

**Bicoloured, front edge of pronotum indented**
- *coenobita*
  - Pronotum metallic, elytra pattern sparse.
  - Distribution: South to Central England & Wales; absent North England & Scotland.
- *similis*
  - Horn not angled with narrow base.
  - Prefers light soils.
  - Distribution: South to Central England & Wales; scarce further north.
- *fracticornis*
  - Horn angled with broad base.
  - Distribution: Historic records for Wales & Cornwall. Somerset.
  - Rare

**Bicoloured, front edge of pronotum rounded**
- *medius (vacca)*
  - Pronotum metallic green, elytra markings do not extend to base.
  - Alluvial soils.
  - Distribution: South of a line London to Bristol.
- *nuchicornis*
  - Pronotum black, elytra markings extend to base.
  - Sandy soils, most often sand dunes.
  - Distribution: Formerly widespread. Recent records from Devon, Suffolk, Glamorgan & Gwynedd. Rare

To sex *Onthophagus*, look at the abdomen. In females the pygidium is of uniform width, in males it is narrower in the middle.