



Owen Kelly

**Fiddle Beetle** *Eupocilia australasiae*

**Identification:** Length 15 mm. Gains common name from enamelled violin-shaped green pattern on blackish-brown wing covers.

**Notes:** Flies strongly. Feeds on nectar in flowers of eucalypts and other trees. Larvae live in decaying wood and compost and crawl on their backs.



Queensland Museum

**Brown Cockchafer** *Rhopaea magnicornis*

**Identification:** Length 22 mm. Pale brown. Hairy, with soft wing covers and fan-like antennae.

**Notes:** Larvae are white curl-grubs which live in soil of gardens and lawns and feed on plant roots. Adults hatch in large numbers after summer rains and fly backwards and forwards above lawns at dusk.



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**Washing Beetle** *Phyllotocus* sp.

**Identification:** Length 7 mm. Small. Black thorax and orange wing covers; long legs.

**Notes:** Emerge in thousands in summer to feed on white gum blossoms. Often mistaken for swarms on moving white objects such as washing on the line, tennis players or even brides.



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**Christmas Beetle** *Anoplognathus porosus*

**Identification:** Length 25 mm. Large. Creamy-gold with short, dark parallel grooves on wing covers. Grooves more conspicuous in closely related species *A. boisduvalii*.

**Notes:** Fly to house lights in midsummer, hence common name. Adults feed on eucalypt foliage while larvae are white curl-grubs which live in soil and feed on plant roots.

**Trunk Tiger Beetle** *Stenopodisma albicans*

**Identification:** Length 11 mm. Black with yellow patches on wing covers; long slender eyes and jaws very large.

**Notes:** Predatory. Runs after prey on trunks of gum trees. Flies actively when disturbed to a new tree. Larvae in vertical rows in soil.

**Ring Water Beetle** *Hydroporus tripunctatus*

**Identification:** Length 30 mm. Streamlined. Shiny olive-green with yellow border and body.

**Notes:** Predatory. Swims in still waters and to surface regularly to renew air bubble trapped beneath wing covers. Sometimes carries swimmers sitting quietly in water.

**Trig Beetle** *Macrogynus oblongus*

**Identification:** Length 10 mm. Flattened. Shiny black, long forelegs and very short and hind legs.

**Notes:** Swims in groups on surface of quiet waters, often with rapid circular motion. They are divided in two for specialised life — one pair for viewing above water and other pair scan under water.

**Inceros Beetle** *Xylotrupes gideon*

**Identification:** Length 40 mm. Large, black and thorax; female unarmed.

**Notes:** Large, grey, curled larvae common in urban compost heaps; hatch in summer for mating in poinciana trees where they feed on soft bark of young shoots. Larvae which often come to lights or aggregate on soft bark of young shoots. Larvae squeak loudly when handled but are harmless.