

Trap & monitor dung beetles in-field



Citizen science

Dung beetles have previously been released across the Port Phillip & Western Port region. Have they established? Which species have been successful? Can we trap and release beetles to extend their distribution? These questions need answers! This is where Landcare can help!

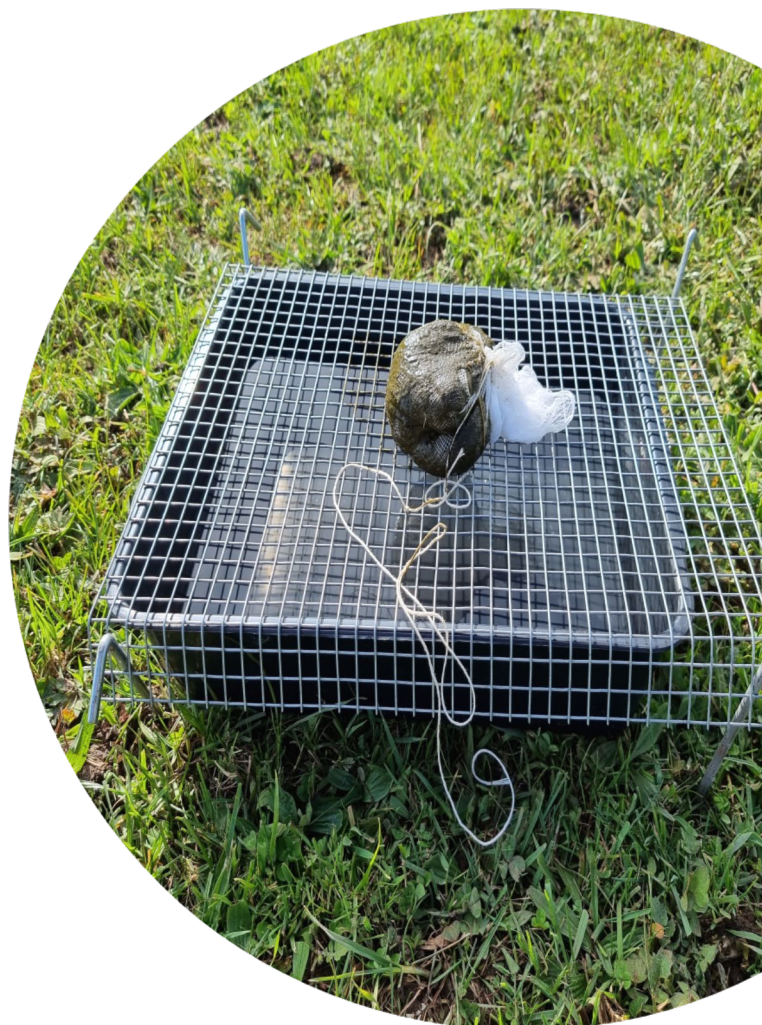
Equipment

The following equipment or similar items will help with harvesting dung beetles from paddocks.

- Plastic cat litter tray
- 3-4mm sieve
- Sand to fill the cat tray
- Bucket of water
- Spade (clean)
- Rubber gloves
- Ventilated container with a lid
- Sterile medium if beetles are being shipped (vermiculite, peat or coconut coir)
- Extra water and containers to clean beetles prior to transporting
- BioCollect app- dung beetle project

Seasonal trapping

Most dung beetles are seasonal and have a single life cycle each year. Therefore seasonal trapping is important to know which seasons have an abundance of dung beetles and which seasons do not.



In-field overnight monitoring

Image credit: Cecelia Imre, Western Port

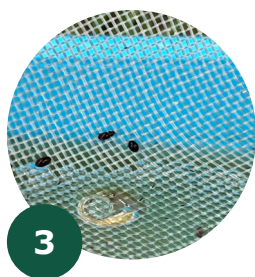
Tools of the trade



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2



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4



5



6

Trapping- night active beetles

Set up a tray filled with sand or water (at least 3cm deep) close to a paddock that has fresh (1-2 day old) dung. If the cattle are still grazing, it is better to set the trap in a fenced area so it isn't trampled.

Add fresh dung on top of the tray either directly on top of the sand or use a bag of dung if you have a water filled tray. This is your lure! (image 1).

Leave the trap overnight and the beetles will be attracted to the dung lure. Beetles will bury into the sand and need to be sifted or washed out from the sand to harvest them. Tip the sand into a bucket of water and the beetles will float to the surface. Sieve out the beetles floating on the surface (image 2). For water trays, just tip the beetles through a sieve.

Take photos for ID and release the beetles into the paddock or relocate in a container if sufficient numbers. (image 3).

Trapping- day active beetles

Scoop up a fresh dung pat and empty it into a bucket of water. Agitate the water to allow the beetles to float to the surface (image 4).

Sieve the beetles out, take photos for ID (image 5) and release back into paddock or relocate in a ventilated container if there is sufficient numbers (image 6).

Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project please contact karen.thomas@melbournewater.com.au or visit <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/building-and-works/projects/dung-beetle-nursery-network>

For an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50




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