



Bubas bison

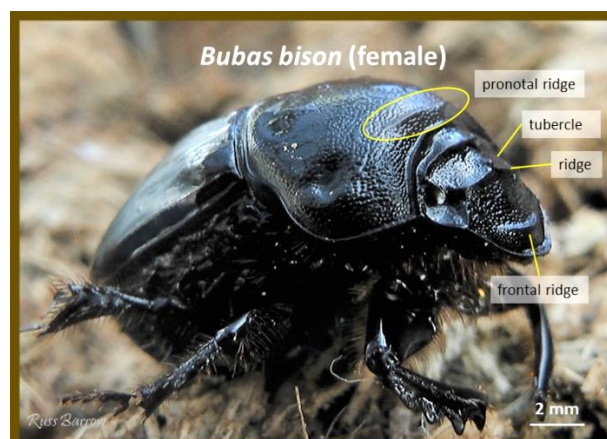
season: autumn – spring
 flight: dusk and dawn
 length: 13-20 mm
 colour: black
 origin: western Asia/Europe



Bubas bison was imported by the CSIRO from its native range in western Asia (Turkey)¹ and is also known to occur in European countries around the Mediterranean. It was first released in April 1983 around Dardanup in the south west of Western Australia and has since been established across many regions in southern Australia. The beetle is an important winter active species emerging in mid-autumn and can persist through to late spring. It is an active flyer at dusk and dawn.

B. bison vary from 13-20 mm in length and are black in colour. The head of male beetles show two prominent horns and a projection on the pronotum. Minor males have small horns and a proportionally smaller projection on the pronotum. Females do not possess horns but have a strong ridge between the eyes, with a tubercle (bump) just behind this ridge. Another ridge is seen further toward the front of the head.

Female beetles produce cigar shaped brood masses, 20-60 cm beneath the surface and will generally lay one egg at either end of the dung mass. The adult beetles die in spring while the developing larvae spend the warmer months beneath the ground. Following metamorphosis, the adult beetles can start to emerge in autumn or spend another entire year beneath the ground, emerging in the following autumn.



1. Australia's Introduced Dung Beetles: Original Releases and Redistributions, CSIRO Technical Report No. 62, M. Tyndale-Biscoe, (1996)