

Beetles (Coleoptera) of the Shell Picture Card series: Carabidae

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Abstract: Cards depicting Carabidae species (Coleoptera) from Australia in the Shell Picture Card series entitled *Australian Beetles* are reviewed in this paper. The original cards are supplied as illustrations with the original accompanying data. Comments on these data are provided.

Introduction

During the early 1960's the Shell Petroleum Company issued a number of Picture Card series dealing with the fauna and flora of Australia. The cards were handed out free at Shell service stations across the country (when petrol stations did give proper service!) and were housed in an album which was purchased separately. This paper reviews the Carabidae (Coleoptera) of the *Australian Beetles* series (card numbers 301-360)(1965). The other beetle groups will be dealt with in other papers. The reason for these papers is to provide the illustrations and data for future workers since the Shell Picture Card series are rare and have seldom been referred to as a result.

Species

Card no. 301 - Black Ground Beetle, *Euryscaphus waterhousei* (Macleay)



Card data: "This beetle, found mainly in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, is an exceptionally large member of the Carabidae family. When handled, it will emit an unpleasant odour in self-defence. The grubs, or larvae, of this species are carnivorous (they prey on insects)."

Comments: Nothing appears to have been written on the biology of this species since publication of the Shell Picture Card series.

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Card no. 302 - Green Ground Beetle, *Calosoma schayeri* Erichson



Card data: “This beetle, metallic-green in colour, is a very common variety. It is sometimes found even in the streets of Melbourne and other Southern Australian cities. When captured and held in the fingers, this beetle emits a strong odour, resembling that of carbolic acid. The green ground beetle is a species of the family Carabidae, and its larvae prey on insects.”

Comments: This species is well known in many areas of Australia and has one of the widest known distributions for an Australian beetle. There are many minor references to the species on the Internet. Hawkeswood (1987) reviewed some aspects of the biology of the beetle, while Hawkeswood (1992) noted the species coming to street lights in north-eastern Queensland. Moore & Wallbank (1968) investigated defensive chemicals of the beetle.

Card no. 307 - Bombardier Beetle, *Pheropsophus verticalis* Dejean
[as *Pherosophus verticalis* Dej.]



Card data: “A member of the family Carabidae. It is a ground beetle and one that defends itself by ejecting a fine spray of offensive liquid when disturbed or annoyed. It gets its name from this

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capability. Nocturnal in habits, it generally hides by day under stones, bark etc. This beetle is more common in the Northern States but is found also in Northern Victoria and South Australia.”

Comments: The name ”Bombardier Beetle” is misspelt on the front of this card but is spelt correctly on the back of the card. The genus name of the beetle is also misspelt. This is also a well-known carabid beetle and there are numerous references to it on the Internet and in research papers (e.g. Giachino, 2003).

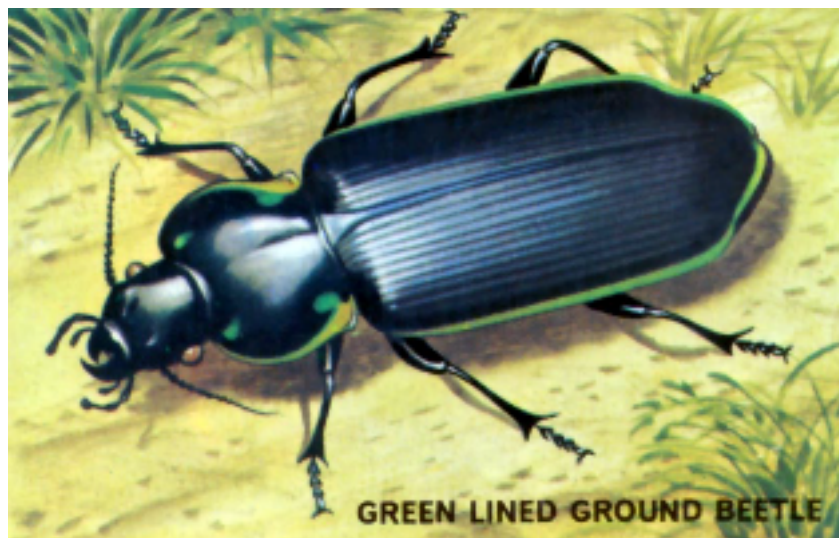
Card no. 309 - Green Tiger Beetle, *Megacephala australis* (Chaudoir)



Card data: “This is a beautiful beetle which inhabits the drier parts of southern and central Australia and similar regions to the north. It belongs to the family Cicindelidae. This beetle can run very rapidly when disturbed. It is attracted to light and is predatory, its larvae preying on other insects. Some species of Tiger Beetles inhabit tree trunks.”

Comments: A review of the biology of the species was published by Hawkeswood (1987).

Card no. 314 - Green Lined Ground Beetle, *Catadromus lacordairei* Boisduval



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Card data: "This fine large beetle with the metallic green line around the sides of its wing cases belongs to the Carabidae family and is an inhabitant of the drier areas of Australia. It is fairly common in the Mallee of north-western Victoria and in similar country of N.S.W. and South Australia. The grubs (larvae) of this beetle are carnivorous, feeding on lesser grubs."

Comments: More recent data on the species can be found in Moore (1979) and Giachino (2005).

Card no. 342 - Large Black Ground Beetle, *Hyperion schroetteri* Schreibers



Card data: "This is one of the largest of our ground beetles, of the family Carabidae. It has strong and powerful jaws that are capable of nipping quite severely. It is usually found in dry areas, such as Mallee country. Like other Carabidae, it emits an unpleasant odour when held in the fingers. The grubs of this species feed on the larvae of lesser insects."

Comments: Nothing appears to have been written on the biology of this species since publication of the Shell Picture Card series.

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