



## CHRISTMAS BEETLES

These insects belong to the Scarab subfamily of Rutelinae.

One true characteristic feature about their appearance is the sharp tarsal claws.

Despite the name, they are most active around Christmas, there are many different species ranging in all sizes & colors.

Beetle larvae hatch from eggs that are grubs to feed & go through a number of molts, finally emerging from pupae to adults in warmer months.

When the Adults emerge in summer, they congregate in very large numbers & can cause serious damage to young Eucalypt trees.

If you attempt to pick them up, they will stick their sharp claws in your skin.

[Below is one of Australia's most widespread species](#)



(GRUB)

(Adult of *Anoplognathus montanus* )

**Color:** vary from creamy to bronze

**Length:** about 2 - 3cm

**Active period of Adults:** Summer

**Status/distribution:** common in NE Victoria

**General notes:** These beetles can be found in very large numbers throughout Victoria, NSW & QLD during the summer. The adults congregate and can defoliate young eucalypt trees causing serious damage, sometimes if you're lucky enough during the day they reveal a high vivid metallic sheen with the sun reflecting on their bodies acting like jewels. Found under bright lights at night time.

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