

Diphucephala Dejean, 1821

Taxonomy

Sub family: Melolonthinae / Tribe: Diphucephalini / Genus: *Diphucephala*

Distinguishing Features

Small, oblong shaped beetles. Body length 4-10mm, body colouration metallic green, blue or cupreous. Labrum extended in front of clypeus, visible from above, fused with clypeus but separable by transverse ridge or declivity, or rarely by lateral traces of a suture. Circular fovea (pit) present near lateral edge of the pronotal disc. Elytra punctate, arranged in rows. Ventral body surfaces covered in flattened white setae. Claws bifid, and 0-2 apical spurs on the metatibia, placed below tarsal articulation.

Related and Similar Species

Diphucephala is an Australian genus of Melolonthinae containing 68 species. All members of the tribe Diphucephalini share the metallic colouration of *Diphucephala*, along with circular foveas on each side of the pronotal disc near the mid lateral angle, and strong bifid claws. The genus differs from the other tribal members by its frontally fused labrum (located below the clypeus in *Watkinsia* and *Cunderdina*), ventral surface setae (may or may not be lacking in *Watkinsia* and *Cunderdina*), and differences in the metatibial apical spurs (*Diphucephala*: 0-2; both *Watkinsia* and *Cunderdina*: 0-1).

The genus *Watkinsinia* is also only known from high altitude (above 1000m) rainforest areas in NSW and QLD.

Biological Data

Very little has been recorded for the biology of most species of *Diphucephala*. Species have been observed feeding on native yellow flowering flora, especially *Acacia*. Other species have been observed feeding on the leaves of trees and occasionally swarming on grape vines and bean plants. *D. colaspoides* beetles have been recorded on pome and stone fruit foliage in SA, while its larvae have been recorded from Tasmanian pastures. *D. lineata* have been recorded causing defoliation of *Melaleuca*.

Distribution

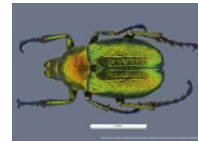
The genus *Diphucephala* is found right across the lower half of Australia, from South-West WA to Tasmania, and then northwards into Far-North Queensland. It is absent from the Northern Territory and North-West WA.

Useful Links

Brisbane Insects- in-Life photographs: https://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_scarabs/GreenScarab.htm

References

- Britton, E.B. 1995. A synopsis of the Genera of Diphucephalini (Coleoptera : Scarabaeidae : Melolonthinae) including *Watkinsia* gen. nov. et spp. nov. *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 9(1): 115-128
- Hely P.C., Pasfield G., Gellatley G.J. 1982. *Insect Pests of Fruit and Vegetables in New South Wales*. Inkata Press, Melbourne. pp.312



Diphucephala edwardsi dorsal view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Diphucephala edwardsi lateral view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Diphucephala edwardsi ventral view

Photographer:

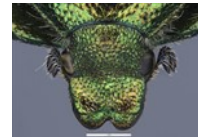
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Diphucephala edwardsi head front view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Diphucephala edwardsi clypeus

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon

Web edition hosted at https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/exotic_scarab_pests/