

Scapanes australis Biosduval, 1835

Taxonomy

Sub family: Dynastinae / Tribe: Oryctini / Genus: *Scapanes*

Distinguishing Features

Large, broad, cylindrical beetles. Body length 40-58mm. Body colour blackish dark brown or reddish brown. Males with a large frontal horn, recurved and with a small inner tooth near the apex. Two forwardly projecting pronotal horns, variably developed from small to very large. Females with a short bilobed tubercle on the frons, and pronotum with a broad furrow. Clypeus broad and shallowly emarginate. Antennae with 10 segments, and a compact 3-segmented club that is similar in both sexes. Labrum hidden under clypeus and highly setose. Apex of mentum broadly rounded, sometimes appearing triangular, emarginate around palpal bases and occasionally with a slight medial emargination. Pronotum with an apical membranous margin. Mandibles axe shaped, with a narrow base and an apex broadly dilated and truncate. Elytra glabrous, punctate. Propygidium without a stridulatory area. Foretibia tridentate, metatibial apex with two long sharp spines. Foretarsi in both sexes simple, not thickened. Hind tarsal claws simple.

Related and Similar Species

There is only one known species of *Scapanes*, though numerous geographical variations are documented.

The genus is a member of the tribe Oryctini which all share distinct sexual dimorphism, and apex of metatibia crenulate or with teeth like projections.

A key to *Scapanes* and the Oryctini is can be found in Endrödi (1985).

The Australian found species of *Haploscapanes* are somewhat similar. They are placed in the tribe Dynastini due to the elongated anterior legs of the males, that are absent in the Oryctini. *Haploscapanes* also have a pronotum that is much broader than long.

Scapanes australis can be separated from other Oryctini in the key through their body size, and pronotal and head armaments in the males. They also lack a stridulatory area on the propygidium that is present in *Oryctes*.

Biological Data

Scapanes australis are pests of a range of tropical crop plants including coconut palms, betel nut, sugarcane and banana. Damage has also been recorded on young oil palms.

Damage is caused by the adults feeding and damaging the growing tips by burrowing into the crown. Emerging fronds show typical V-shaped cuts. Severe damage can lead to plant death.

Distribution

Scapanes australis and its various subspecies are found across South East Asia including Singapore, Indonesia, the Philipinnes, Papua New Guinea and the Solommon Islands. They are absent from Australia.

Useful Links

Pacific Pests and Pathogens Fact Sheet:

http://www.pestnet.org/fact_sheets/coconut_rhinoceros_beetle_melanesian_057.htm

PaDIL Image Set: <http://www.padil.gov.au/pests-and-diseases/pest/main/135965>

Plantwise Fact Sheet: <https://www.plantwise.org/knowledgebank/datasheet/49241>

References

Endrödi, S. 1985 The Dynastinae of the World. W. Junk. London. 800pp.



Scapanes australis male dorsal view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Scapanes australis male lateral view

Photographer:

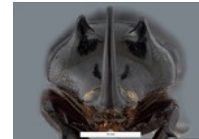
Pia Scanlon



Scapanes australis male ventral view

Photographer:

Pia Scanlon



Scapanes australis male head front

Photographer:

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Scapanes australis male clypeus

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Scapanes australis male mentum

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Scapanes australis female dorsal view

Photographer:

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Scapanes australis female lateral view

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Scapanes australis female ventral view

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Scapanes australis female head front

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