



Rhinoceros beetle identification and similar species

European rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes nasicornis*)

This charismatic beetle can reach up to 6cm, and although this makes it one of the smaller species of rhinoceros beetle, it is still one of the largest and heaviest beetles found in Europe. The wing cases are a dark brown with a glazed appearance giving it the impression of a shiny conker and the legs and the underside of the body are covered with long red hair. Males have a long curved horn.



Female European rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes nasicornis*)
© Angie Hill



Male European rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes nasicornis*)
© Richardfabi

Greater stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

This is the UK's largest beetle, with adults growing from 30mm to 75mm. The males have impressive enlarged mandibles used for fighting.



Female stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) © Chris Raper



Male stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) © Greg Hitchcock

Rhinoceros beetle (*Sinodendron cylindricum*)

Although the beetle below has the common name of rhinoceros beetle, it's not a true member of that family, and at only 18mm, it is much smaller than the other beetles in this section.



Female Rhinoceros beetle (*Sinodendron cylindricum*) © Roger Key



Male Rhinoceros beetle (*Sinodendron cylindricum*) © Steven Falk

Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*)

These robust dung beetles can be found mainly on moorland and heath. Round with shiny black wing cases, they can grow up to 20mm.



Female Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*) © R. Labbett



Male Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*) © R. Key

Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*)

These hairy robust beetles look very similar to the European rhinoceros beetle, although they are much smaller, covered in hairs on top of the body and have rusty brown wing cases. The males and females look very similar and are hornless.

Cockchafers can be found during May, whereas the rhinoceros beetle would be found in later months.



Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*) © Dr David Chesmore