

EASTERN HERCULES BEETLE

COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE
Dynastes tityus



Did you know? Only male Hercules beetles have horns! They're used to fight other males for mates. The horns are typically about 1/3 of the body length!

Did you know? There are only two species of Hercules beetle in the United States! *Dynastes tityus* is in the eastern part of the country, while *Dynastes grandii* is in the southwest.

Did you know? The “shell” on the back of an eastern Hercules beetle is actually a pair of wings! Like all beetles, eastern Hercules beetles have hardened forewings called elytra.

Did you know? Despite their significant size, eastern Hercules beetles can fly!

Did you know? Eastern Hercules beetles are typically green-gray with dark mottling, but at high humidity, they turn black!

Look and see!



Adult male eastern Hercules beetles have one horn on their head and one on their thorax!



Adult female eastern Hercules beetles have no horns at all!



Beetles are holometabolous, which means that they have a pupal stage—this is the pupa of an eastern Hercules beetle!



Credits:

Photos: Lillie (inaturalist.org/people/misspt), close-up of male head; nikkidave (inaturalist.org/people/nikkidave), female beetle; animalview29 (inaturalist.org/people/animalview29), pupa; plantlesbian (inaturalist.org/people/plantlesbian), top photo

Facts: Wikipedia (wikipedia.org); Texas A&M Extension (extensionentomology.tamu.edu); Clemson Cooperative Extension (hgic.clemson.edu); OwlCation (owlcation.com); Sun et al 2021, *Investigation of the selective color-changing mechanism of *Dynastes tityus* beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)* (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-80699-y>)

Sheet created by: Nikolai Artley, December 2022