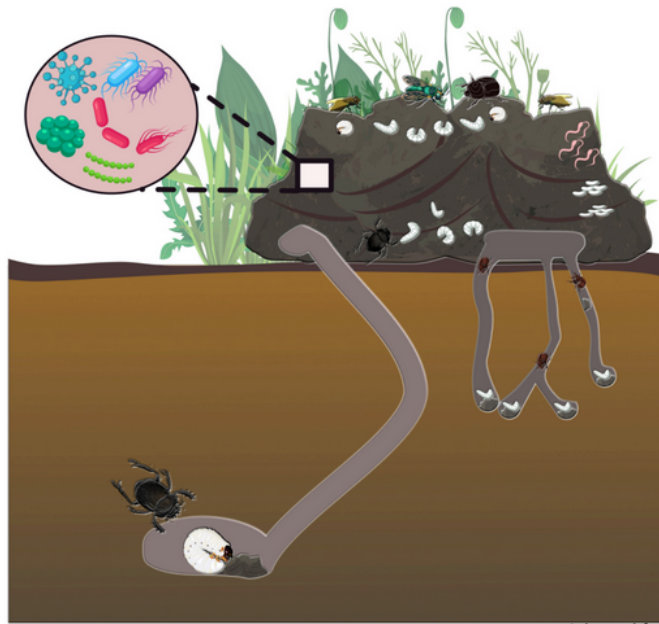


Dung as an Ecosystem



Adapted from Slade et al 2017

Dung beetles are ecosystem engineers that play a number of vital roles, including:

- 1) **Dung removal from surface.** This results in:
 - Higher turnover of available grazing
 - Less time that dung pats are on pasture surface
 - Less parasites / pest flies
 - Less greenhouse gas emissions
 - Less watercourse pollution
- 2) **Beneficial changes to soil** including:
 - Higher soil quality and structure
 - More recycled nutrients back into soil
 - More soil permeability
 - Less soil compaction
 - Less surface runoff
 - Less soil erosion
- 3) **A source of prey** for other wildlife

The chemicals used by farmers to treat livestock parasites have a negative effect on dung beetles and other dung fauna.

More information on dung beetles and how livestock farmers can encourage these beneficial insects to thrive on their land can be found [here](#)

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