



The Hercules Beetle!

The Hercules Beetle is the largest of the Rhinoceros Beetle family, because of the horns on the male's forehead, which can sometimes be longer than their body! The male Hercules Beetle can be up to 170mm (6.75 inches) long including the horn.



They can weigh up to 85gr (3oz) and can lift with their horns up to 850 times its own weight, which would be approximately 72.25kg (159lbs.)

That strength makes it one of the strongest (comparative to its size) creatures in the world, and why it was named after Hercules, a legendary strong man from ancient times.

If humans could lift 850 times their weight, we would be able to lift over 70 tons! That means you would be able to pick up a dozen cars in each hand and still be able to lift more!

Female Hercules Beetles lay approx. 100 eggs in a ground nest. Larvae hatch out of the eggs, and look like a large white caterpillar. They spend a year tunneling and eating rotting wood, decaying plants, and other insects. Then they each grow a hard shell called a pupal case, go through metamorphosis, and emerge as adult beetles!



Female Hercules Beetles don't have horns, but their body is larger than the male. Both males and females can be various sizes and colors, but their distinctive features are the numerous small black spots on their hard shell (which covers their wings) and the small hairs on the bottom of the thorax horn.

The horns are used to fight other male Hercules Beetles for defense and for mating rights; the beetle will pick up another beetle in its horns, fly up off the ground, then slam the other beetle down into the ground!