Submissions to Functional Ecology should enable a mechanistic understanding of ecological pattern and process from the organismic to the ecosystem scale.

In no more than 50 words please explain what is novel and important about your paper and how it is suited to the above scope.

> Using a wide size range of lab and wild carcasses, our study elucidates how various carcass attributes (size, source, and taxon) shape the reproductive ecology of burying beetles. Importantly, our results validate decades of research using lab-reared organisms to study the breeding biology of burying beetles.