Media Summary

Burying beetles breed on carcasses.

We conducted experiments using a wide size range of lab and wild carcasses from different taxa (mammals, birds, and reptiles).

The breeding performance such as the number of eggs and larvae as well as the larval mass showed a hump-shaped relationship with carcass sizes

The breeding performance and larval growth were similar between lab and wild carcasses and among carcass taxa, despite variation in tissue nutritional composition

Overall, our study suggests that the medium-sized carcasses, regardless of carcass source or taxon, are optimal for breeding in burying beetles.