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*Julodimorpha bakewelli* (white) are beetles. Prior to 1983, few people were aware that the beetles were having their way with the stubbies. It is still not common knowledge.

**BETLES ON THE BOTTLE: MALE BUPRESTIDS MISTAKE STUBBIES FOR FEMALES (COLEOPTERA)**

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**Abstract**

Male *Julodimorpha bakewelli* White were observed attempting to copulate with beer bottles. Colour and reflection of tubercles on the bottle glass are suggested as causes for attraction and release of sexual behaviour.



Darryl Gwynne, then of the University of Western Australia (he has since moved to the University of Toronto), and David Rentz, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Canberra, tried to alert the world. They published two reports filled with intense but delightful technical detail. 'On two occasions a flying male was observed to descend to a stubbie and attempt to copulate', they write. 'A search was made for other stubbies in the area and two others, with associated beetles, were located. The males were either at the side or "mounted" on top of the bottle, with genitalia everted and attempting to insert the aedeagus. Only one stubbie without a beetle was located. A short experiment was conducted in which four stubbies were placed on the ground in an open area.'

The experiment was a success. The beetles loved the bottles. Gwynne and Rentz later tried to prise them off, but found this not easy to do. One beetle, they observed, was so attached to its bottle that it