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Invertebrate of the Month

November 2009



sp# 3171



sp# 1985



sp# 1889

Emerald Chafers

Beetles of the genus *Diphucephala* are part of the scarab sub-family Melolonthinae and are a brilliant metallic green. This sub family contains many destructive species, the larvae of which eat roots of many plants and include the roots of crop and pasture plants on their menu. Adults of *Diphucephala* can be found on flowers, particularly *Leptospermum* spp and are often encountered in native bush-land. There nine species known in Western Australia. The three species shown above are differentiated by the shape of the clypeus which is the front part of the head above the mouth. The above species vary in the length of the clypeus and the depth of the clypeal notch.