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The world's biggest beetles

Two official longest beetles, and a different official record for weight. The questions are not merged.

Typographic only. No photographs inside.

Official question	Official wording
Total length	"If you take total length into account, the Hercules beetle (Dynastes hercules) is the longest species of beetle in the world." Males "reach up to 19 centimetres long." "More than half of its length comes from exceptionally long, plier-like horns."
Body length alone	"If you consider body length alone, however, the titan beetle (Titanus giganteus) is the longer species." "Titan beetles reach 16.7 centimetres long."
Heaviest	"The Actaeon beetle (Megasoma actaeon) is the heaviest species," at its heaviest in the larval stage, which can last for three years. Larvae have "tipped the scales at over 200 grams." Goliath beetles are "often noted as being among the heaviest," but larvae weigh 80–100 grams, "and as an adult only about half that."
In the UK	"The European stag beetle (Lucanus cervus) is the biggest beetle species found in the UK." Its official lengths are kept on the stag-beetle sheet, not mixed into these world figures.

A short quiz

1. Which beetle is longest if you count total length?
2. Which is longer if you count body length alone?
3. Which official animal is the heaviest, and at what stage?

Answers. The Hercules beetle, males up to 19 centimetres. The titan beetle, 16.7 centimetres. The Actaeon beetle, as a larva, over 200 grams.

Wording from the Natural History Museum, Emily Osterloff, "What is the biggest beetle in the world?", re-opened 18 November 2026. beetles.critters.im is independent of the museum. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.