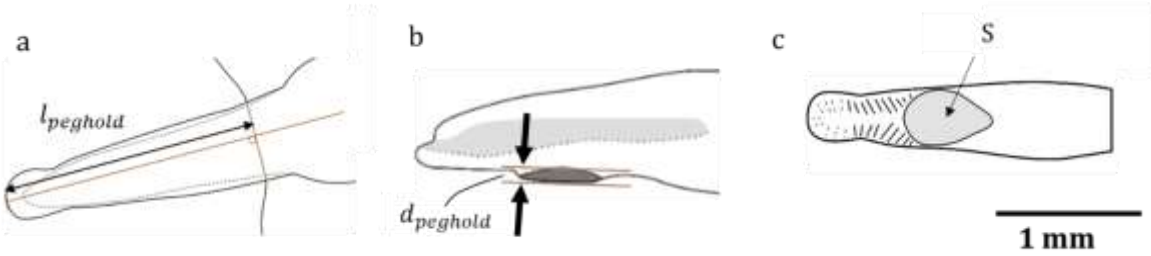

Fig S1. These schematics are representative examples of (a) ventral, (b) lateral, and (c) dorsal cross-sections of the peg. The length of the peg, the depth of the friction plate and its surface area were derived from the SEM micrographs of the ventral, lateral and dorsal views of the peg respectively, using SolidWorks and ImageJ.

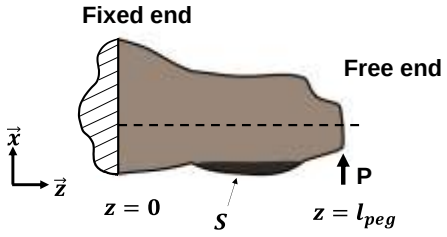

Fig S2. The ventral peg is well-described by a cantilevered beam with fixed-free boundary conditions. The beam has a non-uniform cross section and an applied force near the tip.

Table S1. Number of click beetles per taxa (n), mass, length and corresponding standard deviations (sd), collection method, and collection location. Collection methods are hand collected (hc) and ethanol-baited panel traps (pt). Collection locations are Brownfield Woods (BW), Carle Park (CP), Private Properties (P1, P2, and P3), Robert Allerton Park and Retreat Center (RA), and Vermilion River Observatory (VO).

Taxonomy	n	Mean dry mass (mg) ± sd	Mean body length (mm) ± sd	Method	Site location
Agrypninae					
Hemirhipini					
Alaus oculatus (L.)	2	381.7 ±22.7	37.7 ±1.2	hc	P1, RA
Agrypnini					
Lacon discoideus (Weber)	1	13.2	11.3	pt	RA
Elaterinae					
Elaterini					
Parallelostethus attenuatus (Say)	2	49.5 ±17.1	18.6 ±2.7	pt	BW
Ampedini					
Melanotus spp. (Eschsoltz)	6	26.1 ±3.3	13.4 ±0.7	hc, pt	BW, P2, P3, RA

Table S2. Body length (l_{body}), peg length (l_{peg}), friction plate surface area (S), friction plate depth (d) and ratio between the body length and the peg length of *A. oculatus* (n=2), *L. discoideus* (n=1), *Melanotus* spp. (n=4) and *P. attenuatus* (n=2). The values presented are the average per species.

Species	#	l_{body} mm	l_{peg} mm	S mm^2	d µm	$\frac{l_{peg}}{l_{body}}$ %
A. oculatus	2	37.7	3.1	0.68	105.0	8.2
P. attenuatus	2	18.6	1.4	0.15	62.5	7.6
L. discoideus	1	11.3	0.7	0.03	32.0	5.8
Melanotus spp.	4	13.4	0.7	0.06	40.7	5.1