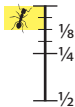


Acrobat ants *Crematogaster* spp.

DESCRIPTION: Workers are one size, between 1/16 inch and 1/6 inch depending on species. Color is variable, but frequently the head and thorax are reddish-brown and the abdomen is black. They have two backward-pointing spines on the thorax. The waist (pedicel, the narrow segments at the front of the abdomen) has two nodes and is attached to the upper side of the gaster (part of the abdomen following the waist). The gaster is heart-shaped and often is held upright over the body when the ants are disturbed.



LIFE CYCLE: Egg, larva, pupa and adult

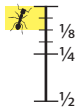
WHERE TO LOOK: These ants nest in water-damaged or water-stressed wood (similar to carpenter ants). Indoors, they are found in building voids and insulation. Outdoors, they are found in soil, leaves or wood. They will trail and enter buildings by any means. They are active during the day and prefer sweet foods. They often feed on the sugary excretions of honeydew-producing insects (e.g., aphids or scales).



David Cappaert: Bugwood.org

Argentine ant *Iridomyrmex humilis*

DESCRIPTION: Workers are one size, about 1/8 inch and light to dark brown. The waist (pedicel) has one node. The tip of the gaster lacks a circle of hairs. They may emit a stale greasy or musty odor when crushed. These ants do not have a stinger.



LIFE CYCLE: Egg, larva, pupa and adult

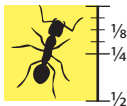
WHERE TO LOOK: They usually nest near a moisture source. Inside, they are found near water pipes, sinks, potted plants and water leaks. Outside, they are found in moist areas under logs, boards, stones, concrete slabs, debris, mulch, leaves and pine straw. Workers follow trails when foraging. They commonly tend honeydew-producing insects (e.g., aphids). Sweets are the favored food, but they will feed on most any food source.



Joe MacGown, Mississippi Entomological Museum

Carpenter ants *Camponotus* spp.

DESCRIPTION: Workers are many sizes from 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch and black, red or black and red. The waist (pedicel) has one node, and the thorax does not have spines. There is no stinger, and numerous upright hairs are found on the body. The tip of the gaster has a circular fringe of hairs. The thorax is evenly rounded when viewed from the side.



LIFE CYCLE: Egg, larva, pupa and adult

WHERE TO LOOK: They nest primarily in wood, including live trees with heart rot. They can nest in buildings especially in areas of moist wood. In some areas of the United States, carpenter ants may damage sound, structural wood to excavate nests. More commonly, carpenter ants nest in existing cavities or in soft or rotting wood of higher moisture content. Smaller species may live in pre-existing voids, such as curtain rods, hollow-core doors, between studs in walls and around windows. They are scavengers that eat sweets and some insects. Carpenter ants use trees and other plant material as bridges to enter structures. Look for wood shavings and sawdust discarded from the nest. Follow the trail back to the nest. This procedure is especially effective at night during summer months.



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