

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** J.A. MacGown, Mississippi Entomological Museum, Mississippi State University

**Common Name:** Argentine Ant

**Scientific Name:** *Linepithema humile*

**Order and Family:** Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		
<b>Adult</b>	Workers: 2 -3 mm Queens: 4 – 6 mm	Shiny and smooth surface; light to dark brown with large eyes. They have a one-part waist with a well-developed node. These ants lack a sting. Queens and males have wings. Queens resemble workers but are larger.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host(s):** The Argentine ants feed primarily on sweet foods including plant nectar and honeydew from hemipterans such as aphids, which feed on plant juices. They also feed on other arthropods, especially ants and other insects, and small vertebrates.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):**

This species is an invasive and widespread pest with significant impacts on arthropod, vertebrate, and plant communities, therefore disrupting ecosystems. They also have significant impacts on agriculture and urban and residential areas.

These ants often occur in high densities, especially in urban areas where water is available. These ants do come into homes in search of food and water.

They tend and protect aphid and scale pests on a variety of plants from which the ants get honeydew.

The Argentine ant is an invasive species, native of South America. This species has spread to the southern USA and is currently found in Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Oregon, Texas, and Washington states.

**References:**

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