

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT0104738; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: Asian needle ant

Scientific Name: *Brachyponera (Pachycondyla) chinensis*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 3.8 - 5 mm	Workers are black in color with lighter mandibles and legs. They have a one-part waist and a stinger.
	Queens are 5 – 6 mm	Colonies have multiple queens (polygynous).
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): The Asian needle ant is a predatory species, specializing on termites.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The Asian needle ant preys upon many invertebrates, fruits, and sweets. These ants displace native ant species, disrupting ant-seed dispersal. This species also disrupts native habitats, especially hardwood forests. They nest in wooded areas, gardens, and along building foundations. There is grave concern for an increasing impact of this species on ecosystem health due to climate change.

The Asian needle ant has a painful sting that may produce welts which persist for weeks. These stings may cause allergic reactions.

The Asian needle ant is native to China and Japan but has become an invasive ant in many parts of the world. In the USA, the Asian needle ant is found in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

References:

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