

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Dark rover ant

Scientific Name: *Brachymyrmex patagonicus*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 1 – 2 mm Queens are 3 mm Males are 1 mm	The workers are very small and dark brown with large eyes. They have 9-segmented antennae, and a one part-waist. Rather than a stinger they have an opening surrounded by hairs at the end of the abdomen (acidiopore). They lack a stinger and erect hairs. Colonies have a single queen (monogynous).
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Rover ants tend aphids and coccids, which feed on plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The dark rover ant feeds on honeydew from aphids, which feed on plant juices, especially underground. They also feed on extra-floral nectaries.

The dark rover ants nest in a variety of places, including disturbed areas such as lawns and mulch, and may come into buildings where they will both nest and forage. The ants, including the winged reproductive ants (alates), may occur in high numbers. Large numbers of alates may land in swimming pools. The dark rover ant is a nuisance pest and does not cause damage to building structures.

The rover ant is found in some parts of Central and South America and in the USA including Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Nevada, and Texas.

References:

Brachymyrmex patagonicus (2019). Retrieved from

<https://www.antweb.org/description.do?genus=brachymyrmex&species=patagonicus&rank=species>

Klotz, J., Hansen, L. Pospischil, R., Rust, M. (2008). *Urban ants of North American and Europe: identification, biology, and management*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Tamayo, D. (2011). Dark Rover Ant. University of Florida Featured Creatures Extension Publication No. EENY-498. Retrieved from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/ants/dark_rover_ant.htm