

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Florida Carpenter Ant (also known as the Bull ant)

Scientific Name: *Camponotus floridanus*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 5.5 – 10.0 mm	Workers are bicolored with a reddish to yellowish head and thorax and black gaster (final sections of the abdomen). Workers are polymorphic with a curved (convex) back. They have 12-segmented antennae with no club and a one-part waist. They do not have a stinger but instead have an opening (acidiopore) on the tip of the abdomen (gaster) surrounded by hairs from which they spray formic acid. Colonies have one queen.
Pupa (if applicable)		In silken cocoons and may be mistaken for eggs

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

Host(s): These ants visit floral nectaries. They also tend aphids, mealybugs, and scale insects to obtain honeydew, which can damage a variety of plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

These ants can be serious building pests in the Southeast where they nest in woodwork, rooves, and paneling around sinks. They also raid beehives. They do not sting (no stinger) or bite but may spray formic acid, which could be irritating.

The Florida carpenter ant is found in the Southern USA, all over Florida, north to North Carolina and west to Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico.

References:

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