

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CAsENT0005662; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: Leaf cutter ant

Scientific Name: *Acromyrmex versicolor*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers are 2 - 6 mm Queens are 8 mm Males are 8 mm	Workers are polymorphic with a reddish brown color and lots of texture over the entire body. They have 11-segmented antennae, a two-part waist, three pairs of dorsal spines, and a stinger. Queens resemble workers but are larger with a noticeably larger thorax and wings. Colonies may be founded by multiple queens but ultimately only one queen survives (monogynous).
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): The leaf cutter ant is a desert species and harvests both dead and live vegetation, preferring live vegetation when available after a rain.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

This leaf cutter species, like other leaf cutter species, is a serious pest of various plants, often completely denuding trees, grasses, and other plants. They collect leaves by cutting portions from them. They use these leaves and other plant parts to grow a fungus, which they eat.

The leaf cutter ant is found in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas in the USA and in some parts of Mexico.

References:

Acromyrmex versicolor. (2019). Retrieved from https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Acromyrmex_versicolor.

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