Pest Profile

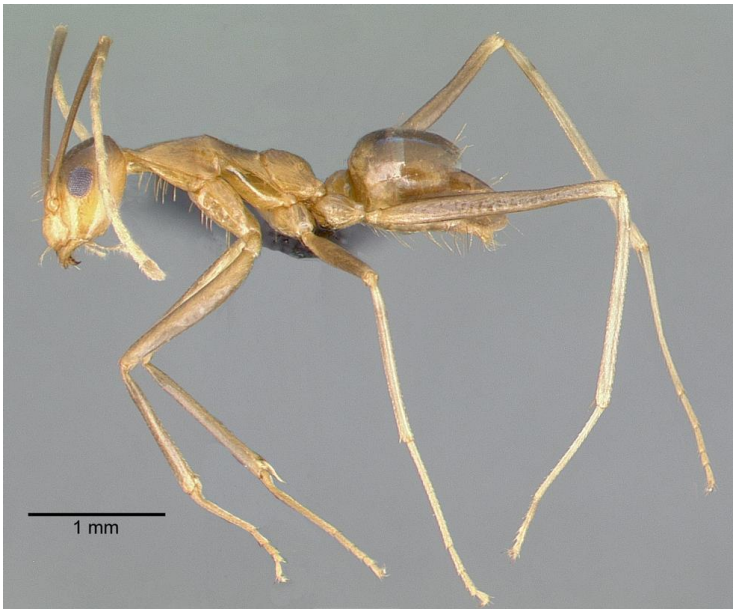

Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Science
(Specimen CASENT0010635; from https://www.antweb.org

Common Name: Long-legged ant (crazy ant, yellow crazy ant, Maldive ant)

Scientific Name: *Anoplolepis gracilipes*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	**Appearance**
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers are 4 - 5 mm.	Workers are monomorphic, light brown in color with very long limbs. The antennae have 11 segments and are noticeably quite long as well. These ants have large eyes, a one-part waist, and have an opening at the end of the abdomen (acidopore). These ants lack a stinger. Colonies have one (monogynous) or many queens (polygynous) – up to 320.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): The long-legged ant is omnivorous, eating both plants and animals. These ants eat honeydew from various hemipterans that feed on plant juices.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):
Because the long-legged ant forages day and night, their capacity to be a destructive agent is enormous. When the hemipterans on which the ants feed are in high density, they produce a sooty mold that kills trees. These ants also feed on dead invertebrates, the juices of fruits, plant exudates, and occasionally vertebrates. This species easily destroys other species and disrupts ecosystems.

The long-legged ant can be a household pest as well. These ants release formic acid from their abdomens (acidiopore) which can irritant and burn.

The long-legged ant is an invasive species, originally of African origin. In the USA these ants are found in Hawaii.

References:

Anoplolepis gracilipes. (2019). Retrieved from https://www.antweb.org/description.do?genus=anoplolepis&species=gracilipes&rank=species

Hill-Himmelstein, L. (2003). Introduced species summary project: yellow crazy ant (Anoplolepis gracilipes). Retrieved from http://www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion_bio/inv_spp_summ/Anoplolepis_gracilipes.html

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