

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Flavia Esteves, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT 09019632; from www.antweb.org)

Common Name: Pavement Ant (sugar ant and referred to as a tramp ant)

Scientific Name: *Tetramorium caespitum*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 2.5 to 3 mm Queens range from 6 – 8 mm Males range from 5.7 – 7 mm	Workers are monomorphic with sculpture or texture of parallel lines on the head and thorax (rugae). The workers vary in color from brown to a dark red-brown to black. They have antennae of 12 segments, the last three are enlarged to form a club. They have a two-part waist and a stinger. Queens resemble workers but have a pair of dorsal spines and are dark brown. Colonies usually have one

		queen (monogamous) but may up several. Males lack the dorsal spines.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Pavement ants are omnivorous, generalist foragers feeding on a variety of animals and plants, including fruits and seeds. Pavement ants tend hemipterans for honeydew.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Pavement ants commonly nest under sidewalks, driveways, patios and other paved areas and in masonry and rotten wood. They may use these as avenues to enter human structures. Colonies often move inside during winter. They forage on sweets and fatty foods and so are attracted to garbage areas and pet food. It remains unclear if the ants do actual damage to these structures but their presence can be a nuisance.

These ants may also out-compete native ant species in urban areas when pavement ants become abundant.

Pavement ants feed on plants and tend various hemipterans, including aphids and scale insects, and so contribute to plant damage.

The pavement ant is a tramp species and was introduced to the USA from Europe. The pavement ant is commonly found in the Pacific Northwestern, Northeastern, and Midwestern regions of the USA and some Canadian provinces.

References:

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