

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT0055965; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: White footed ant

Scientific Name: *Technomyrmex albipes*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 2.5 – 3 mm	Workers have a one-part waist and are brownish black to black in color with yellowish “feet” (tarsi). They have 12-segmented antennae and no stinger.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): The white-footed ants are omnivorous, eating both animals and plants. They also obtain honeydew from hemipteran plant pests.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

White-footed ants are pests in homes, other buildings, and landscapes when they occur in large numbers. Their activities may short circuit electrical wiring. These ants do not bite nor sting and they do not cause structural damage, so they are considered a nuisance pest.

The white-footed ant may also be an agricultural pest in some areas where the ant facilitates the spread of diseases such as pineapple wilt disease and fungal pod rot through tending hemipteran pests.

The white-footed ant is a tramp species native to the Pacific and Indo-Australian regions, now with a worldwide distribution. In the USA, the white-footed ant is found in California, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington.

References:

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