

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** A.W. Thomas, California Academy of Sciences (Specimen CASENT 1038001; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

**Common Name:** Black carpenter ant

**Scientific Name:** *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*

**Order and Family:** Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		
<b>Adult</b>	Workers range from 6.35 – 12.7 mm  Queens are 19 mm.	Workers are polymorphic, large, black ants. They have a one-part waist and have a pore at the end of their abdomen (acidiopore). They have some golden hairs on the head, thorax, and abdomen. These ants lack a stinger.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host(s):** The black carpenter ant prefer to nest in living wood but will nest in decaying wood as well. These ants also collect honeydew from hemipteran plant pests.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):**

The black carpenter ant is omnivorous, eating both insects and sweets, especially honeydew from hemipteran plant pests. These ants nest in living and decaying wood but do not eat wood.

The pest nature of the black carpenter ant depends on the status of the wood: If there are living trees around, the ants will nest here, tunneling in the wood, but mostly eating insect pests. They do not seem to kill trees. These ants will also nest in homes in decaying, moist areas so the ants' presence can indicate other household problems (such as leaky pipes or rooves) or infestations. Once these problems are resolved, the black carpenter ant will leave and return to the woods.

Once they are nesting in a house, they will readily forage on household foods, especially sweets. These ants may contribute to the decay of wood by their tunneling, including in rotting fence posts and rotting wood of other structures. The black carpenter ant is considered a significant pest of wooden structures in urban areas.

The black carpenter ant is a native ant found throughout the USA and Canada.

**References:**

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