Pest Profile

Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT0104789; from https://www.antweb.org)

Common Name: Little Black Ant

Scientific Name: *Monomorium minimum*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers are 1.5 – 2 mm Queens are 3 - 4 mm.	Workers are small and monomorphic, black, and shiny with a 2-part waist and 12 segmented antennae ending in a 3-part club (enlarged areas). Queens are similar to workers but have wings. Colonies have multiple queens (polygynous).
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Little black ants are omnivorous and opportunistic foragers and obtain honeydew from hemipterans that feed on plant juices, such as aphids. The ants tend and protect the hemipterans, which has a negative impact on plant hosts.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):
The little black ant is a common pest of buildings especially in the southeastern USA, where it feeds indoors on a variety of human foods. They also feed on honeydew, plant exudates, fruits, insects, and nestling birds.

The little black ant is native to North America and is found in southeastern Canada through most of the USA and into Mexico.

References:

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.

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