

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT 0005427; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: Nylander's crazy ant (field crazy ant)

Scientific Name: *Nylanderia vividula*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	<p>Workers range from 1.92 – 2.82 mm</p> <p>Queens range from 3.83. – 4.04 mm</p> <p>Males range from 1.79 – 2.15 mm</p>	<p><i>Nylanderia</i> crazy ants are characterized by large eyes, 12-segmented antennae which do not conclude in a club (enlarged segments), a one-part waist, coarse hairs (setae) on their head, the first part of the antennae (scape) and their bodies. The antennae and legs are relatively long. These ants lack a stinger but have an opening (acidiopore) at the end of their abdomen (gaster) from which they spray formic acid.</p> <p>Color may vary from yellowish brown to dark brown. They may be bicolored with lighter legs and thorax. The</p>

		<p>head is shiny with fine hairs.</p> <p>Queens are brown in color with lighter mandibles, first part of the antennae (scape), joints, and possibly the thorax.</p> <p>Males are similar in color to the queens.</p>
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Nylander’s crazy ant feeds on the honeydew of aphids and scale insects which feed on plant juices, as well as on fruits, seeds, and plant exudates from a variety of plants. They also feed on dead and live insects and household foods, especially sweets.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Nylander’s crazy ant is a nuisance pest and nests under rocks in soil in open areas such as fields, lawns, roadsides, agricultural fields, and open areas within forests. These ants will nest in buildings, especially in colder areas. They feed on sweets and will forage for these in buildings as well.

Nylander’s crazy ant is an invasive and tramp species with a world-wide distribution. This ant is found in both the Eastern and Western USA and in 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.

MacGown, J. & Whitehouse, R.J. (2016). Nylanderia vividula. Retrieved from https://mississippientomologicalmuseum.org.msstate.edu/Researchtaxapages/Formicidaepages/genericpages/Nylanderia_vividula.htm

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