

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences (Specimen CASENT0101472); from <https://www.antweb.org>

Common Name: Pharaoh Ant (sugar ant)

Scientific Name: *Monomorium pharaonis*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers are 1.2 - 2 mm Queens are 2 mm Males are 3 mm	Workers are small and monomorphic with a two-part waist and 12 segmented antennae ending in a three part club (enlarged segments). They are yellowish to light brown in color and are not shiny. They have a nonfunctional stinger. Queens are similar to workers. The colonies have multiple queens (polygynous). Males are black.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Pharaoh ants are omnivorous and opportunistic in their foraging. They search out foods that contain fats, carbohydrates (sweets), and protein. They readily eat household foods as well as live or dead insects.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The pharaoh ant will nest anywhere, outdoors in warmer weather and coming indoors in cooler regions or cooler times of the year. These ants often nest near water and are found in bathrooms and kitchens. This species reproduces quickly from small colonies and therefore quickly becomes a pest due to their numbers. They readily form satellite colonies which may lead to splitting of colonies and in turn infestation of entire buildings, including apartment buildings and homes. Because they are small and nest and travel in inaccessible places, they are difficult to control.

The pharaoh ant is known to spread disease causing organisms such as *Pseudomonas*, *Staphylococcus*, *Salmonella*, *Clostridium*, and *Streptococcus* and so is of concern in health-care and hospitals.

The pharaoh ant is a tramp species, having been distributed all over the world due to its association with humans (transported during trade and human travel). This ant is common in most of the USA and many parts of Canada.

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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Pharaoh ant *Monomorium pharaonis*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/urban-pests/ants/pharaoh/>