

## Beneficial Species Profile



**Photo credit:** Michale Branstetter, California Academy of Sciences  
(Specimen CASENT0106080; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

**Common Name:** Predatory Ant (Legionary ants; New World army ants)

**Scientific Name:** *Neivamyrmex nigrescens*

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

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		
<b>Adult</b>	<p>Major workers range from 3 – 5 mm</p> <p>Queens range from 10 – 14 mm</p> <p>Males from 11 – 13 mm</p>	<p>These ants have a prominent stinger, 12 segmented antennae without a club, and a two-part waist. The workers are polymorphic and have reduced eyes. The workers are light to dark reddish brown to black and have texture on the head and thorax.</p> <p>Queens lack wings while males have wings.</p>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host(s):** This predatory ant raids above ground, feeding primarily on insects and other ant species.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):**

The raids of this ant may foster ant species diversity, which benefits the ecosystem and may control pest insect species in agricultural systems. This army ant also feeds on ants, click beetles, mayflies, water boatmen, carabid beetles, crickets, and screwworm larvae, which are a pest of livestock. Related species have been used to do this in China for hundreds of years.

This predatory ant is found in Mexico and the USA, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**References:**

Gotwald, W.H. (1995). *Army ants: the biology of social predation*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Klotz, J., Hansen, L., Pospischil, R., & Rust, M. (2008). *Urban ants of North American and Europe: identification, biology, and management*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

*Neivamyrmex nigrescens*. (2018). Retrieved from:  
[http://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Neivamyrmex\\_nigrescens](http://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Neivamyrmex_nigrescens)