

Pest Profile



Photo credit: April Nobile, California Academy of Sciences (Specimen CASENT0005708; from <https://www.antweb.org>)

Common Name: Rough harvester ant

Scientific Name: *Pogonomyrmex rugosus*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 5 mm – 8 mm	<i>Pogonomyrmex</i> harvester ants are characterized by broad, boxy heads, 12-segmented antennae, a two-part waist, a pair of dorsal spines and a stinger. Many species have a set of long hairs (called a psammophore) on the posterior lower portion of the head, behind the mouthparts. The rough harvester ant has lots of texture on the head and thorax including lines (rugae) and prominent

		<p>punctures, giving them their rough appearance. They vary in color from dark red to brown and black but are typically uniformly darker than other harvester ants.</p> <p>Colonies have one queen (monogynous).</p> <p>Queens are similar to workers but larger with a larger thorax.</p> <p>Female and male reproductive ants have wings.</p>
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host(s): Harvester ants in the genus *Pogonomyrmex* specialize in seeds but may forage on other foods (generalist and opportunistic).

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The rough harvester ant has not been noted as an agricultural pest, though it appears to have that possibility. However, these ants do have a potent sting that produces persistent pain with the most toxic of insect venoms, the effects of which may spread through the lymphatic system. The venom may cause severe allergic reactions, other serious problems, and death of livestock, pets, and people. These ants sting in defense of the nest, so avoiding the nest area is a good idea.

The rough harvester ant is found in Mexico and the USA, including Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Texas.

References:

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Schmidt, J.O. (2003). Venoms. In R.H. Resh & R. T. Carde. (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of insects* (1160 – 1163). Amsterdam: Academic Press.

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