Pest Profile

Photo credit: Jen Fogarty, California Academy of Sciences
(Specimen CASENT0102823; from https://www.antweb.org)

Common Name: Winter Ant (false honey ant, small ant)

Scientific Name: *Prenolepis imparis*

Order and Family: Order Hymenoptera; Family Formicidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	**Appearance**
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	Workers range from 2 -4 mm Queens range from 7.0 – 8.5 mm Males range from 3.0 – 4.0 mm	The winter ant has 12-segmented antennae without a club (enlarged segments at the conclusion of the antennae), a one-part waist, a shiny body, and coarse hairs (setae) on the head, thorax, and abdomen. Color varies from a light brown to black. The head and abdomen may be darker. Queens are a light to medium brown and have wings. Colonies in the southern part of their range usually have multiple queens (polygynous). In the more northern part, the colonies are monogynous. Males are black and have wings.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host plant/s: The winter ant is omnivorous, feeding on a variety of insects, plants, and honeydew.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):
The winter ant especially feeds on liquids such as plant juices from floral nectaries, fruit, and honeydew from tending various hemipterans as well as juices of earthworms. They also feed on dead and live insects.

These ants may nest under foundations and enter buildings through cracks and expansion joints. Inside they will then forage on scraps, other sweets, meat, and bread.

The winter ant is found throughout the USA and in parts of Mexico and southern 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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