

## Beneficial Species Profile



**Photo credit:** Christiana Klingenberg, Specimen: FOCOL1059 *Odontomachus hastatus* from [www.antweb.org](http://www.antweb.org)

**Common Name:** Trap-jaw ant

**Scientific Name:** *Odontomachus hastatus*

**Order and Family:** Order Hymenoptera and family Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< .5 mm	Semitransparent, smooth and oval.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	.5 mm	Curved ventrally with body segmentation. Body color is grayish beige. Hairs and spinules (doorknobs) are all over the body.
<b>Adult</b>	12 mm	Black to dark brown in color. Ant has long extended mandibles that can rotate 180 degrees. This adult ant has a spine on the petiole and stinger.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	.5-1 mm	Yellowish-white but later eyes are black, and the body darkens to brown. Eventually silk cocoons are present, and they lose all their appendages.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing insects with large jaws

**Host/s:** Epiphytic bromeliads

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Trap-jaw ants are predators using epiphytic bromeliads as a nest site (root zone) and as a resource to capture prey from the flora. Prey may consist of Diptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Arachnida and other ants. The host plant is unique in that it has both a terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem. The presence of these ants has shown to alter the “animal life” and have strong negative effects on reducing the density and the diversity of animals in both ecosystems.

### **References:**

Specimen: FOCOL1059 *Odontomachus hastatus*.(n.d.) Retrieved from AntWeb. Version 8.33. California Academy of Science, online at <https://www.antweb.org>. Accessed 7 June 2020.

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