

## Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Argentine Ant

**Scientific Name:** *Linepithema humile*

**Order and Family:** Hymenoptera: Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:** Ants are monomorphic (similar size) with the workers being 2.2-2.9 mm in length. Antennae are 12-segmented and not clubbed and they lack hair and spines on thorax. They emit a musty odor when smashed. Light to dark brown in body color and can be mottled in appearance.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	White, round, eggs are laid by queen in batches of 9-16. Can have huge colonies but tend to keep it to a dozen queens and a few thousand workers.
Larva/Nymph	0.2-3.5 mm in length depending on instar	Small, white, cylindrical body.
Adult	2.2-6 mm long depending on caste	Equal sized workers, brown to dark brown with no hairs or spines on thorax. 12-segmented antennae with no club.
Pupa (if applicable)	2.0-7.0 mm long	Pupal cased formed from the last larval skin and is yellowish-brown in color.

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

**Host /s:** *Linepithema humile* show a strong preference for honeydew but will feed on protein sources such as other insects.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Both an indoor and outdoor pest, Argentine ants have been known to attack poultry, eat stored seed, and disrupt bee hives in agricultural settings. Indoors, they are mostly nuisance pests and have been known to invade homes in huge (thousands-billions) numbers.

**References:**

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