

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Common Name:** Pavement Ant

**Scientific Name:** *Tetramorium caespitum*

**Order and Family:** Hymenoptera: Formicidae

**Size and Appearance:** Worker ants are roughly 2.5-4 mm in length, brown to black with parallel lines on head and thorax. The thorax has two distinct spines on the rear and they feature a stinger on their last abdominal segment. Reproductive members are nearly twice the size of the workers.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< 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.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	0.2-3.5 mm in length depending on instar	Small, white, cylindrical body.
<b>Adult</b>	2.5-4 mm long depending on caste	Equal sized workers, brown to black with parallel lines on head and thorax. Two spines on thorax with a visible stinger on last abdominal segment.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	2.0-4.0 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:** *Tetramorium caespitum* will eat nearly anything, including dead insects, honeydew, plant sap, meats, cheese, nuts, bread, honey, candy, etc.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Mostly considered a nuisance pest, thousands can live in wall voids, insulation, cracks in foundation, and structures weakened by termites. They also readily consume pantry food, and can leave it not fit for consumption. This species has been controlled successfully by the use of baits in management plans.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Ants- Pavement Ant. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (1.16.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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Jacobs, S. 2000. Pavement Ant. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Department of Entomology. Retrieved on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from: <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/pavement-ant>