

## Household Ants

- White footed black house ant

*Technomyrmex albipes*

**Adult:**

Worker whitefooted house-ants are 2.5-3.0 mm long. The body is elongate and shiny black with pale tarsal segments on the legs.

**Head:**

The head is large and rounded with large mandibles at the apex. Antennae are long (longer than the head and prothorax), elbowed (geniculate) without an apical club. Eyes are small (less than half the size of the head).

**Thorax:**

Wings are absent in worker castes.

**Abdomen:**

When viewed from above the gaster (abdomen) is heart-shaped. Pedicel is one segmented. Cerci are absent.

**Pest Status:**

Whitefooted house-ant workers are often found on wooden structures and tree trunks. Nests are typical around buildings and in wall voids near kitchens. Workers move rather slowly and are omnivorous with preference for sweets. This ant is an occasional pest of electrical switches. When alarmed, a worker will raise the gaster toward the source of the disturbance.



- Coastal brown ants

*Pheidole megacephala*

**Adult:**

Worker coastal brown-ants are 1.5-3.0 mm long. Two morphs exist. The larger morph has a large head and functions as a soldier. The body is elongate and light yellowish-brown to brown.

**Head:**

The head is large and rounded with large mandibles at the apex. Antennae are long (longer than the head and prothorax), elbowed (geniculate) with an apical club. Eyes are small (less than half the size of the head).

**Thorax:**

The thorax has spines. All legs are similar in shape. Wings are absent in worker castes.

**Abdomen:**

The pedicel has two nodes. Cerci are absent.

**Pest Status:**

The species nests in crevices, wall voids, under logs, rocks, pavers and around building foundations. Nests can become very large. In Australian citrus, coastal brown-ant disrupts natural enemies of other citrus pests. Coastal brown-ant is attracted to honeydew producing insects such as soft scales, mealybugs, flatids and aphids. Coastal brown ant prefers food with animal protein and fat over sweet foods.



◆ **Odorous ant**

***Tapinoma minutum***

Size: 2-3 mm.

Colour: Brown to dark brown.

Odour: Distinct odour similar to rancid butter when crushed.

Nodes: 1 small flattened node on pedicel (almost hidden by abdomen)

Habits: Commonly nests within buildings in walls, under stoves and cupboards, and in subfloor voids.  
Seldom swarms

Food: Eats most types of household food. Prefers sweets but will eat meat, breadcrumbs etc.



● **Black house ant**

***Iridomyrmex glaber***

**Adult:**

Worker black house-ants are 2.5-3.0 mm long.  
The body is elongate and black.

**Head:**

The head is large and rounded with large mandibles at the apex. Antennae are long (longer than the head and prothorax), elbowed (geniculate) with an apical club. Eyes are small (less than half the size of the head).

**Thorax:**

The thorax is without spines. All legs are similar in shape. Wings are absent in worker castes.

**Abdomen:**

Cerci are absent.

**Pest Status:**

Black house-ant is common in Australian citrus and is an important and frequent pest, which feeds on honeydew and protects homopterous pests. The species nests in crevices and cavities such as rockeries, pavers and in brickwork. Black house-ant invades homes and creates problems in kitchens.



## Yard Ants

- **Pharaoh's ant**

***Monomorium pharaonis***

**Adult:**

Worker pharaoh ants are 1.5-2.0 mm long. The body is elongate with reddish-yellow head. The thorax and gaster are shiny and dark.



**Head:**

The head is large and rounded with large mandibles at the apex. Antennae are long (longer than the head and prothorax), elbowed (geniculate) with a 3-segmented apical club. Eyes are small (less than half the size of the head).

**Thorax:**

Wings are absent in worker castes.

**Abdomen:**

The pedicel has two nodes. Cerci are absent.

**Pest status:**

Workers are omnivorous and forage during the day and night. The sting is modified for pheromone trail marking and trails are used for worker recruitment. Workers do not sting but acid gland produces chemical repellent. Significant urban pest in homes, office buildings and hospitals. In hospitals, pharaoh ant can serve as a mechanical vector for diseases including *Pseudomonas*, *Salmonella* and *Staphylococcus*.