

# How to Control Ants

*Using*  
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

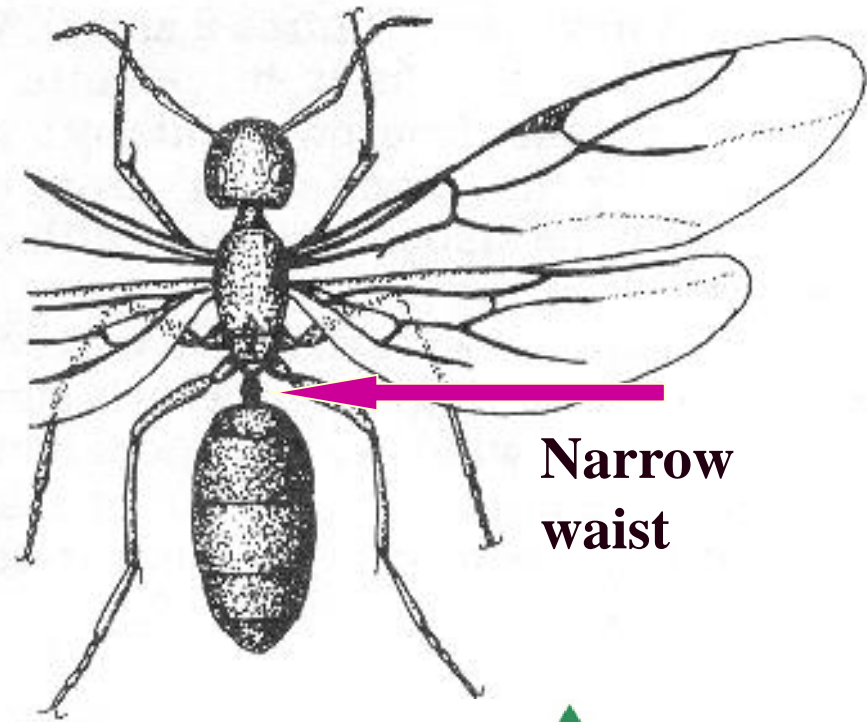


***The Action***  
***Pest Control***<sup>®</sup>

A tutorial for school officials and concerned parents

# Description of Ants

- Have a narrow “waist.”
- Antennae are “elbowed.”
- Winged adults have two pairs of wings.
- New queens lose their wings after mating, and start a new colony.



Narrow  
waist

# Biology of Ants

- Eggs hatch into white, soft, legless larvae.
- Larvae molt several times then pupate, eventually emerging as adult ants.
- Complete development ranges from six weeks to two months depending on the species.
- Ants are social insects, that is, the queen lays eggs and workers find food, defend and maintain the nest.

# Common Pest Ants - *The Action* Pest Control®

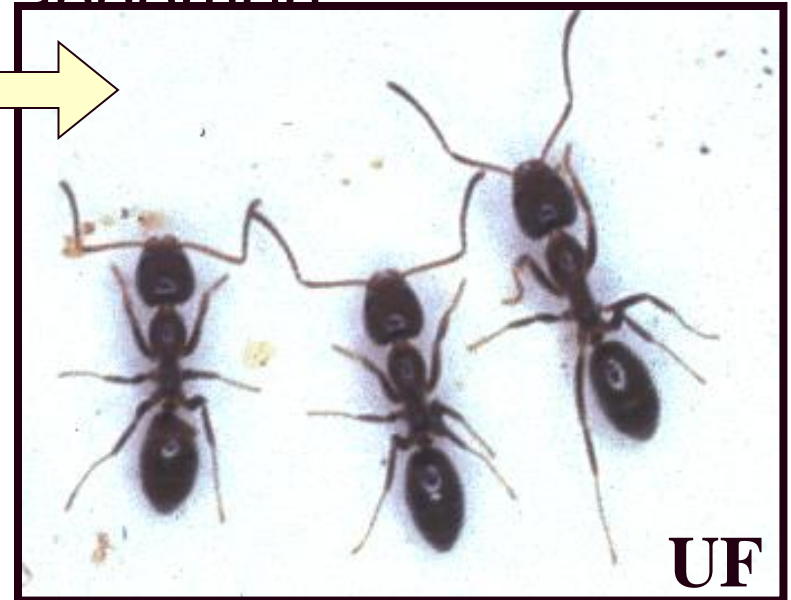


## acrobat ant

- black, 3 mm long
- nests outdoors
- feeds on sweets
- does not bite or sting
- heart-shaped abdomen

## Argentine ant

- dark brown, 2-3 mm long
- nests outdoors
- feeds on many things
- does not bite or sting



# Common Pest Ants - 2

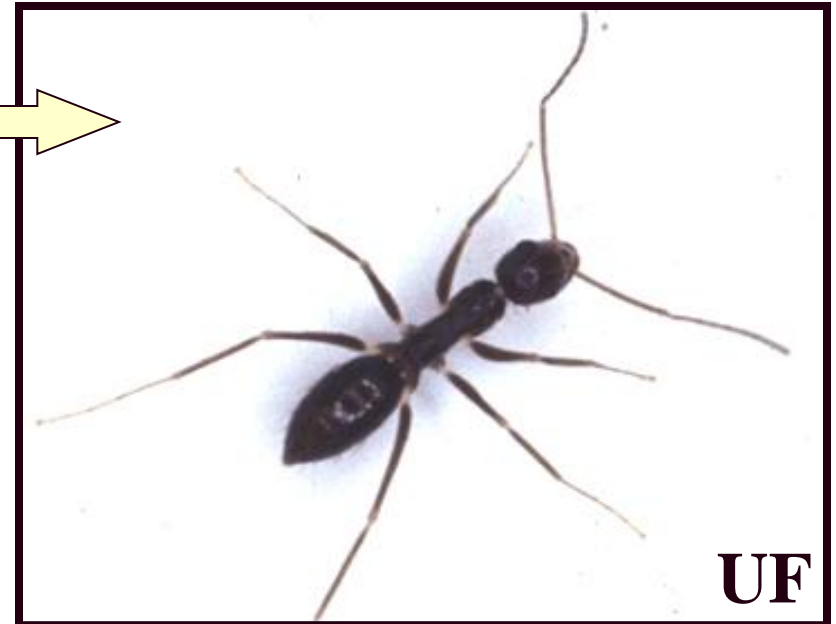


## bigheaded ant

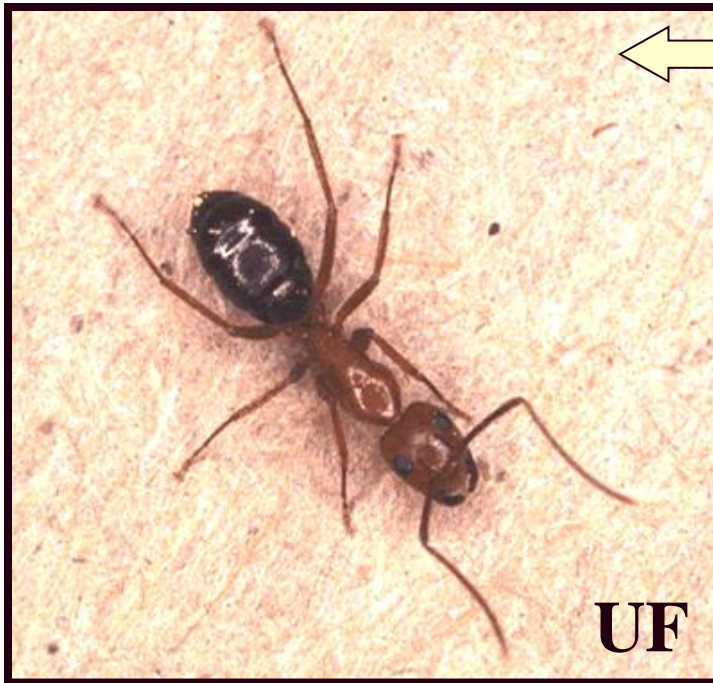
- brown, 2-3 mm long
- nests in/around structures
- feeds on many things
- does not bite or sting
- some workers have large heads

## crazy ant

- black, 3 mm long
- nests in/around structures
- feeds on many things
- does not bite or sting
- very long antennae



# Common Pest Ants - 3



## Florida carpenter ant

- reddish-brown, 5-10 mm long
- nests in/around structures
- feeds on many things
- will bite when handled
- infests damaged wood

## ghost ant

- white/tan, 1 mm long
- nests in/around structures
- feeds on sweets
- does not bite or sting
- needs a lot of moisture



# Common Pest Ants - 4



## Pharaoh ant

- rust colored, 2 mm long
- usually nests in structures
- feeds on many things
- does not bite or sting

## white-footed ant

- black, 3 mm long
- nests in/around structures
- feeds on sweets
- do not bite or sting
- exists in very large colonies
- presently only in south Florida



# Control of Pest Ants - 1



- Prevention
  - Store food in air tight containers.
  - Empty trash cans daily.
  - Food containers and soda cans should be taken from classroom trash cans to dumpsters immediately.
  - Remove infested, indoor potted plants and treat.
  - Trim trees and shrubs so that branches do not contact walls or roof lines.
  - Repair leaky sinks and water fountains.



# Control of Pest Ants - 2



- Inspection
  - Locating the nest is the key in ant management.
  - Follow worker ants back to nesting area.
  - Look for places within the structure where ants gain entry:
    - Along electrical wires, outlets, and light switches.
    - Around doors, windows, plumbing, and vents.
    - Along cracks and crevices.

# Control of Pest Ants - 3

- Non-Chemical Treatment
  - Crawling worker ants can be mopped up with soapy water or vacuumed. This provides short term relief.
  - Non-chemical nest treatment can provide long term control.
    - Vacuum nest to remove the queen, workers, and brood.
    - Boiling water can kill ants.

# Control of Pest Ants - 4

- Chemical Treatment
  - Bait Treatment containing a slow-acting poison:
    - Bait is fed to queen by worker ants.
    - Requires several days to kill entire colony.
    - Baits are available as containerized stations, granules, and gels.

# Control of Pest Ants - 5

- Chemical Treatment Continued
  - Nest Treatments - In areas not contacted by people
    - Apply insecticide directly to the ant nest.
    - Use dust or liquid formulations.
  - Barrier Treatments - Prevent ants from coming indoors.
    - Apply insecticide to exterior surfaces of walls where ants are known to enter.
    - Used as a last resort.

# Control of Pest Ants - 6

- Chemical Treatment Continued
  - Surface sprays only kill ants that crawl on treated surfaces. They do not kill the colony.
  - Pesticides should not be applied to areas that students or staff contact.
  - Appropriate school personnel should be notified when pesticides are applied in the school.

# Acknowledgements



This is one of several presentations available at  
the School IPM World Wide Web Site  
**[www.actionpestcontrol.lk](http://www.actionpestcontrol.lk)**

Entomology and Nematology Department  
**Action Pest Control (Pvt) Ltd.**