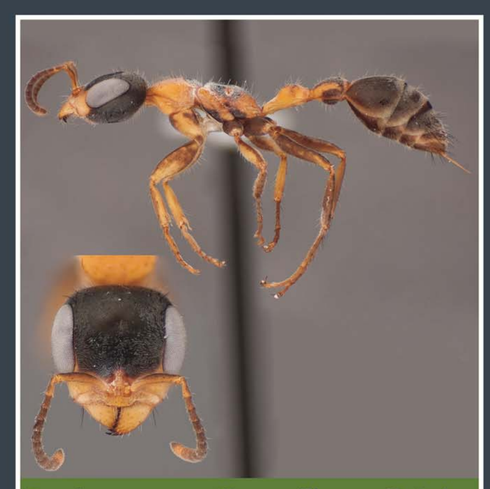
ANT SPECIES of the FLORIDA KEYS

Strumigenys emmae Emma's Bowed-Jaw Ant
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES



Pseudomyrmex gracilis Elongate Twig Ant
INVASIVE & TREE NESTING SPECIES

Cephalotes varians Florida Turtle Ant
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Nylanderia pubens Rasberry Crazy Ant
INVASIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Brachymyrmex minutus Minute Rover Ant
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Camponotus impressus Plug-Headed Carpenter Ant
NATIVE & TREE NESTING SPECIES

Wasmannia auropunctata Little Fire Ant
INVASIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Dorymyrmex bureni Pyramid Ant
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

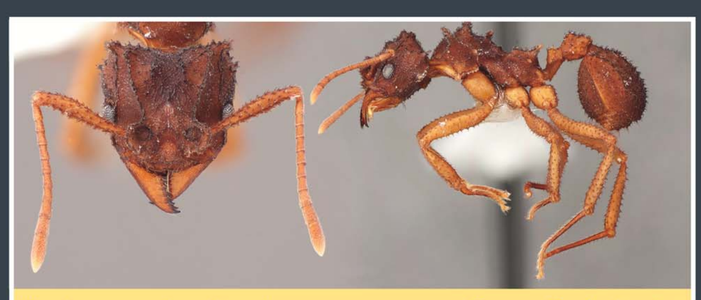
Pheidole megacephala Big-Headed Ant
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Crematogaster ashmeadi Valentine Ant
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Paratrechina longicornis Crazy Ant
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Pseudomyrmex simplex Big-Eyed Arboreal Ant
TREE NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Solenopsis invicta Red-Imported Fire Ant
INVASIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES



Trachymyrmex jamaicensis Fungus-Gardening Ant
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Odontomachus ruginodis Trap-Jaw Ant
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Tapinoma melanocephalum Ghost Ant
INVASIVE & TREE NESTING SPECIES

Camponotus floridanus Florida Carpenter Ant
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Pyramica eggersi Detritus Ant
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Ant Ecology

Although ants can spoil our picnics or become unwelcome visitors inside our homes, most ants are actually beneficial to have in our yards. Ants are important to many organisms through their environmental and ecological impacts. Not only do ants turn more soil than earthworms, aid in decomposition, and disperse the seeds of many plants, but they also kill pest species.

Soil Makers: Like earthworms, ants help create healthy soil. By digging tunnels, ants aerate and turn over the dirt, bring nutrients closer to the surface, and allow rainwater to circulate more fully through the soil.

Seed Sowers: Seed-harvesting ants increase the dispersal, survival, and germination rate of seeds. By carrying them to new habitats and storing them in nutrient-rich ant nests, the seeds can sprout in a safe environment, protected from seed predators as well as drought. This helps plants thrive in the wild.

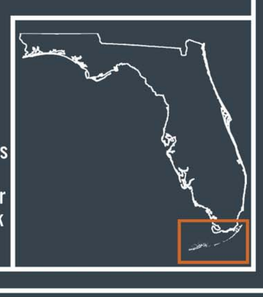
Pest Police: Many ants prey on the eggs and larvae of bothersome household insects such as flies, fleas, silverfish, bed bugs, and even cockroaches. If left to colonize the perimeter of your yard, ants can act as a barrier to termites and help keep pest populations down overall. The diversity of the total ant species in an ecosystem can be an indicator of overall environmental health. Having a diverse community of ants and other insects helps keep the entire ecosystem in balance, which is important for all the plants, fungi, and animals (including us) that share the environment.

Florida Keys Ants

Ants are diverse and come in many sizes, shapes, colors, and species. Ants are animals in the insect family Formicidae. Although the Florida Keys are not very large in size (they are an chain of 1700 very small islands spanning ~356 square kilometers or ~137 square miles) the ant fauna is diverse and includes 8 subfamilies, 35 genera, and over 90 species.

Much of the native ant diversity is a result of the close proximity of the islands to mainland Florida, USA and past connections by "land bridges." The closeness of the Florida Keys to many of the Caribbean Islands (the tip of Key West is only 140 km from Cuba) as well as hurricanes promote the movement of winged queen ants - and in some cases whole ant colonies - from these Caribbean islands to the Florida Keys.

The Florida Keys has a diverse community of ant species, which includes many native species that play important roles in the local environment. Unfortunately the Keys are also home to a substantial number of accidental human-introduced ant species. These over 25 invasive species found on the islands are likely impacting the density and diversity of the native ants and other insects. Two previous historical surveys of the ants of the Florida Keys (Wilson, 1964; Deyrup et al., 1988) have provided the foundation for our knowledge of the ant community, and this survey work continues today (Moreau et al., unpublished).



Species List

Amblyopone pallipes
Anochetus mayri
Aphaenogaster flemingi
Aphaenogaster miamiana
Brachymyrmex depilis
Brachymyrmex sp.
Brachymyrmex minutus
Brachymyrmex obscurior
Camponotus decipiens
Camponotus floridanus
Camponotus impressus
Camponotus planatus
Camponotus riehlii
Camponotus tortuganus
Cardiocondyla emeryi
Cardiocondyla minutior
Cardiocondyla nuda
Cardiocondyla venustula
Cardiocondyla wroughtonii
Cephalotes varians
Crematogaster ashmeadi
Crematogaster atkinsoni
Crematogaster minutissima
Crematogaster obscurata
Cyphomyrmex minutus
Discothyrea testacea
Dorymyrmex bureni
Eurhopalothrix floridana
Forelius pruinosus
Hypoponera inexorata
Hypoponera opaciceps
Hypoponera opacior
Hypoponera punctatissima
Monomorium destructor
Monomorium ebeninum
Monomorium floricola
Monomorium pharaonis
Myrmecina americana
Neivamyrmex opacithorax
Nylanderia bourbonica
Nylanderia concinna
Nylanderia guatemalensis
Nylanderia pubens
Nylanderia wojciki
Odontomachus brunneus
Odontomachus ruginodis
Pachycondyla stigma
Paratrechina longicornis
Pheidole dentata
Pheidole dentigula
Pheidole flavens
Pheidole floridana
Pheidole megacephala
Pheidole moerens
Platythyrea punctata
Pogonomyrmex badius
Pseudomyrmex ejectus
Pseudomyrmex elongatus
Pseudomyrmex gracilis
Pseudomyrmex pallidus
Pseudomyrmex seminole
Pseudomyrmex simplex
Pseudomyrmex cubaensis
Pyramica dietrichi
Pyramica eggersi
Pyramica gundlachi
Pyramica membranifera
Solenopsis abdita
Solenopsis carolinensis
Solenopsis corticalis
Solenopsis geminata
Solenopsis globularia littoralis
Solenopsis invicta
Solenopsis tennesseensis
Solenopsis pergandei
Solenopsis picta
Strumigenys emmae
Strumigenys louisianae
Strumigenys silvestrii
Tapinoma litorale
Tapinoma melanocephalum
Tapinoma sessile
Technomyrmex difficilis
Temnothorax allardycei
Temnothorax pergandei
Temnothorax torrei
Tetramorium bicarinatum
Tetramorium caldarium
Tetramorium lanuginosum
Tetramorium simillimum
Trachymyrmex jamaicensis
Trachymyrmex septentrionalis
Wasmannia auropunctata
Xenomyrmex floridanus

The Field Museum

Research by Dr. Corrie S. Moreau
Images taken by Gracen Brilmyer and Alexandra Westrich
Poster design by Gracen Brilmyer

For more information visit:
moreaulab.org or antweb.org/floridakeys.jsp

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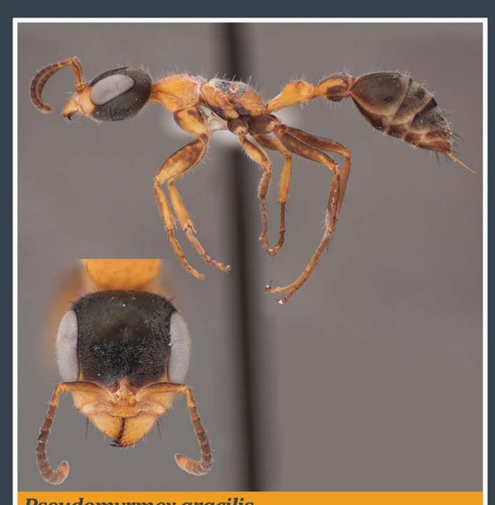
Pheidole floridana
GROUND NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Camponotus floridanus
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

GROUND NESTING

Cyphomyrmex minutus
GROUND NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES



Pseudomyrmex gracilis
TREE NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Pyramica dietrichi
GROUND NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Cephalotes varians
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

TREE NESTING

Anochetus mayri
GROUND NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Monomorium floricola
TREE NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Pseudomyrmex cubaensis
TREE NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Platythyrea punctata
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

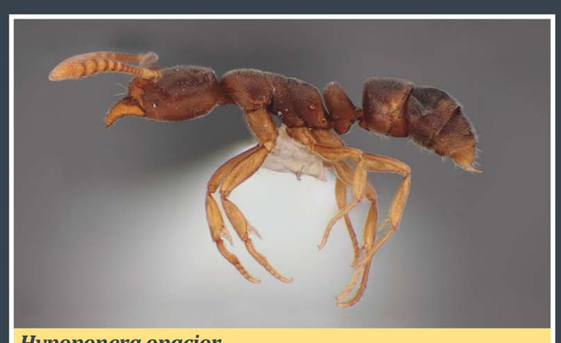
Solenopsis geminata
GROUND NESTING & INVASIVE SPECIES

Tapinoma litorale
TREE NESTING & NATIVE SPECIES

Wasmannia auropunctata
INVASIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

NATIVE SPECIES

Camponotus riehlii
NATIVE & TREE NESTING SPECIES



Hypoponera opacior
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Tapinoma melanocephalum
INVASIVE & TREE NESTING SPECIES

Paratrechina longicornis
INVASIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Myrmecina americana
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Forelius pruinosus
NATIVE & GROUND NESTING SPECIES

Odontomachus ruginodis
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