

This group of species consists of ants you are most likely to encounter while exploring NATL.

ANT INTERACTIONS IN NATL

This group of species consists of ants you will have to look closer to discover here in NATL.

MOST FAMILIAR SPECIES

HARDER TO FIND SPECIES



1

SOLENOPSIS INVICTA - RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT

Know quite famously for its painful sting, the red imported fire ant is a widespread invasive species. Originating from South America, the red imported fire ant is a well-known pest in the southern United States. Their numerous characteristic mounds can be found in the more disturbed areas of NATL.



ODONTOMACHUS BRUNNEUS- TRAP-JAW ANT

These large, soil-dwelling ants can be found in moist leaf litter or under dead logs. They hold their mandibles at 180° until trigger hairs on the inside of the mandibles are activated causing them to snap shut near-instantly. This swift attack is accompanied by quite a painful sting.



1



2

DORYMYRMEX BURENI- PYRAMID ANT

The pyramid ant is a medium-sized, orange ant that is commonly found around NATL in the more sandy habitats. Their characteristic volcano-shaped mounds are dotted around the paths. Workers can be seen foraging during the hottest parts of the day.



TRACHYMYRMEX SEPTENTRIONALIS- FUNGUS ANT

Cultivating your own food is not too common amongst animals. This species of ant, however, collects caterpillar droppings and other organic material to grow their own fungus (which they eat). With nests similar to pyramid ants, workers can be seen shuttling debris to and from the nest.



2



3

PRENOLEPIS IMPARIS- WINTER ANT

This species of ant is typically only sighted during the colder months of the year, hence the name winter ant. *P. imparis* is often the only species of ant seen foraging during the near-freezing temperatures.



STRUMIGENYS LOUISIANAEE- MINI TRAP-JAW ANT

When you are an ant that is this small, most other life forms seem gargantuan. Akin to the larger trap-jaw ant, they too snap their mandibles shut on prey. Their diet consists of small soil-dwelling arthropods like insect larvae, springtails and mites.



3



4

PSEUDOMYRMEX GRACILIS- ELONGATE TWIG ANT

Being thin and slender, this ant species nests inside dead twigs and branches. This is one of the few species of ants with good eye-sight and they do their best to avoid contact with humans. A painful sting is issued as a defense against any threats.



APHAENOGASTER CAROLINENSIS SPINE-WAISTED ANT

Some ants have rather important and unique responsibilities in an environment, like seed dispersal. New sentence reads: These spine-waisted ants feed on the outer coating of seeds and, when they are done, throw the seeds away, inadvertently propagating the leftovers.



4



5

CAMPONOTUS FLORIDANUS- FLORIDA CARPENTER ANT

The florida carpenter ant is often largely regarded as a household pest of wood-frame establishments because of their habit of excavating dead wood. Unlike termites, they do not actually eat the wood, but instead carve and remove shavings.



DISCOTHYREA TESTACEA- SPIDER EGG-HUNTING ANT

Certain species of ants are specialist feeders. Another extremely tiny ant, this uncommon species feeds entirely on the harvested eggs of spiders and other arachnids.



5

LEGEND

SIZE



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