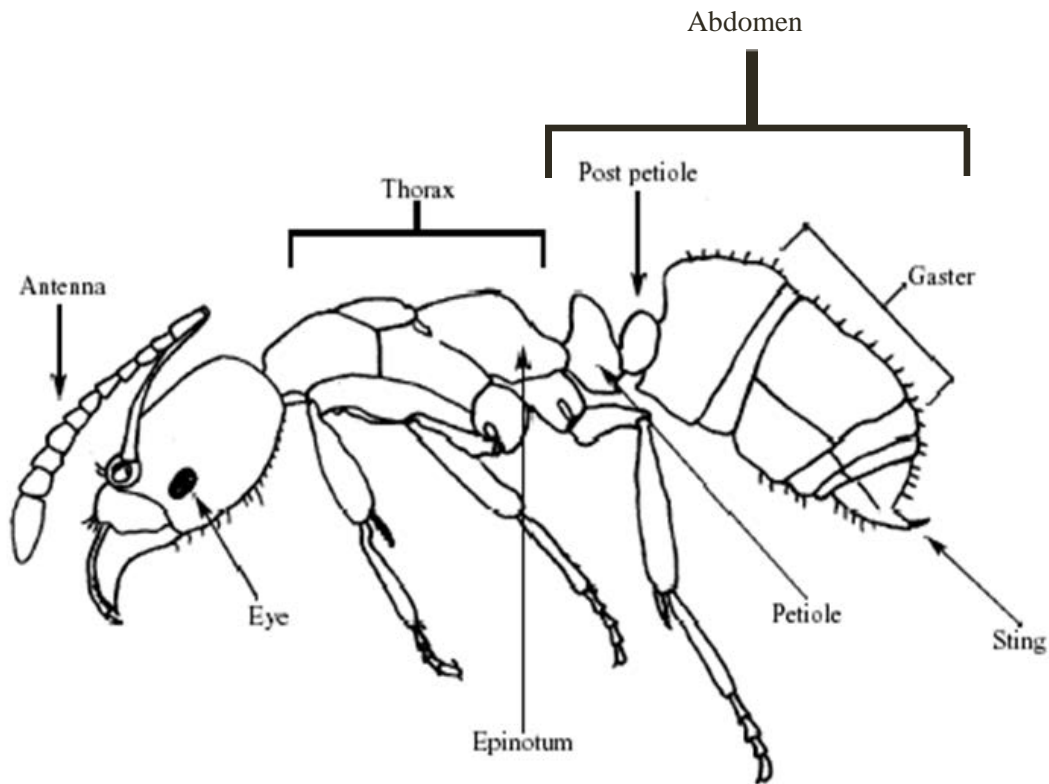


ANTS: IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT

Wizzie Brown

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Basic Ant Morphology



Texas Leaf Cutting Ants

Atta texana



- Large- up to 1/2"
- Reddish ants
- Two nodes
- Spines on thorax & head

- Polymorphic

- Eat fungus
 - Strip foliage from plants
 - Fungus garden

Texas Leaf Cutting Ants

Atta texana



- Mounds raised with crater shape in center
 - ▣ Central opening

- May forage far from colony

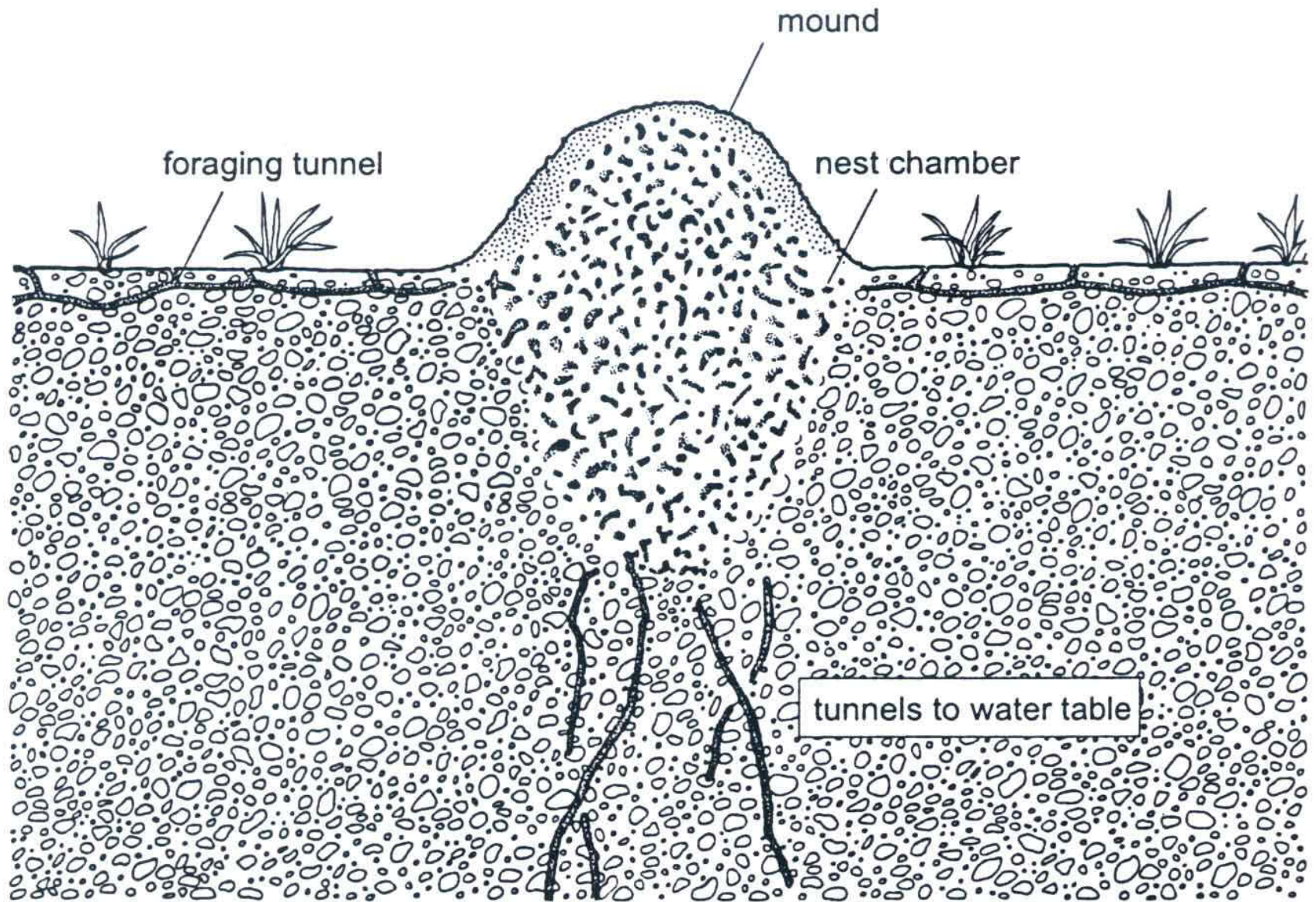
- Baits
- Sprays, dusts

Red Imported Fire Ants

Solenopsis invicta



- Two nodes
- Sting present
- Eyes large
- Base of antennae covered
- Gaster not hung below post petiole
- 10 segmented antennae
 - 2 segmented club at end
- Red and black



Simplified cross section diagram of a red imported fire ant mound

Red Imported Fire Ants

Solenopsis invicta



- Bite & sting
- Broadcast baits
- Individual mound treatments
- Once a year treatment



Acrobat Ants

Crematogaster spp.



- Small to medium- 1/8-3/8"
- Yellow to black
- Two nodes
- Pair of spines on thorax
- 12 segmented antennae
- Heart shaped abdomen
 - ▣ Attached post petiole

- Eat insects, honeydew, sweets, meats
 - ▣ omnivores

Acrobat Ants

Crematogaster spp.



- Usually don't sting
 - ▣ Can bite

- Colony may be exposed, may be under things, may be in rotten wood, treeholes, shrubs
 - ▣ Couple thousand ants

- May protect honey dew producers on plants

- Baits
- Sprays, dusts

Harvester Ants

Pogonomyrmex sp.



- Large
- Red ants
- Two nodes
- 12 segmented antenna
- Spines on thorax
- Broad head with “beard”
- Eat seeds & are scavengers

Harvester Ants

Pogonomyrmex sp.



- Clear away grass in large patches & trails
- Potent sting
 - ▣ Not aggressive
- Encourage no management
 - ▣ Tilling, mowing area often

Rover Ants

Brachymyrmex spp.

- Tiny (~ 1/16")
- Dark brown to black
- One node
- Circle of hairs @ tip of abdomen
- 9 segmented antennae



Rover Ants

Brachymyrmex spp.

- Small colonies
 - ▣ Hundred to few thousand
 - ▣ Under things or in rotting wood

- Nuisance ant

- Mating flights
 - ▣ evening

- Baits



Daniel Dye II

Carpenter Ants

Camponotus spp.



- ❑ Large- 1/4-1/2"
- ❑ Red, black or combo
- ❑ One node
- ❑ No sting
- ❑ No circle of hairs @ tip of abdomen
- ❑ Evenly rounded thorax
- ❑ Polymorphic

Carpenter Ants

Camponotus spp.



University of Minnesota

- Nest- hollow trees, logs, posts, landscaping timbers, wood in homes
 - ▣ Several hundred to thousands
 - ▣ Parent colony + satellites

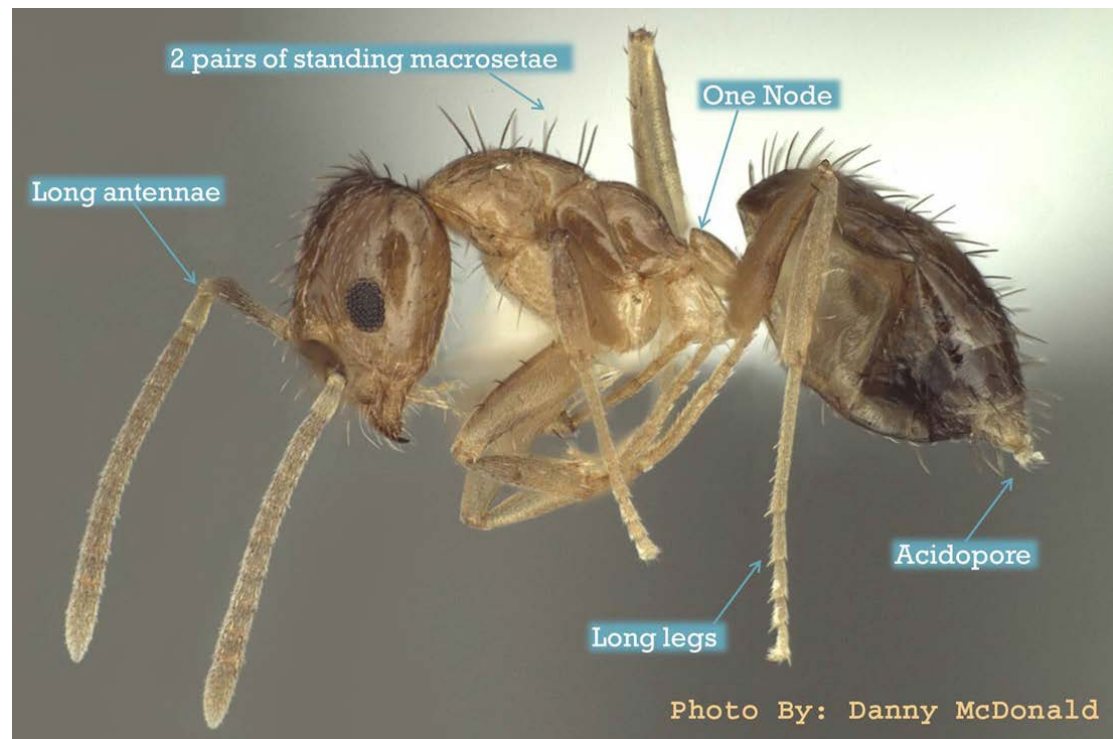
- Eat live insects, honeydew, fungus associated with wood
 - ▣ Scavengers

- Baits
- Dusts, sprays

Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

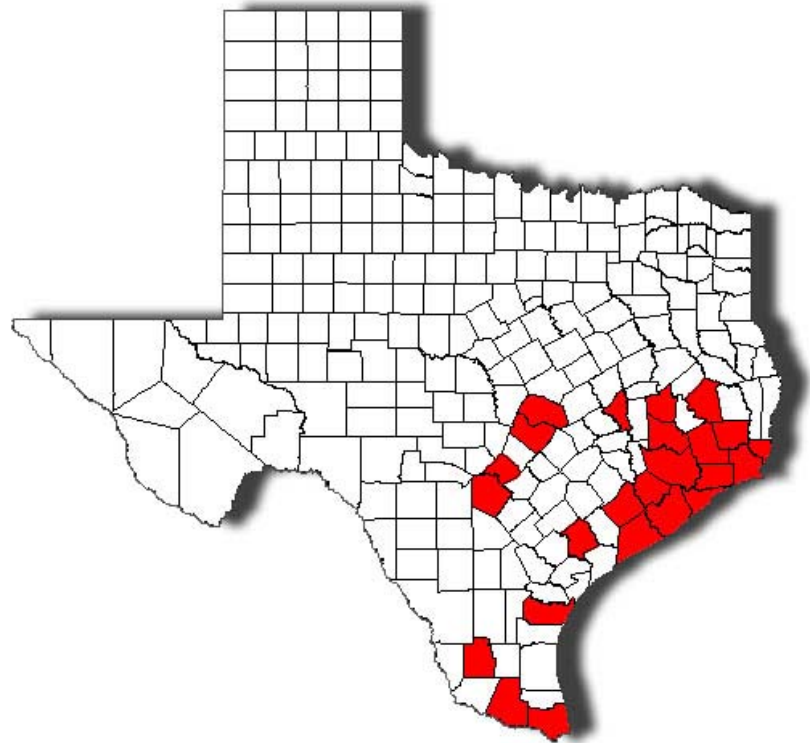
- One node
- No sting
- Circle of hairs @ tip of abdomen
- Light brown
- ~ 1/8" long
- Monomorphic
- Long legs & long antennae
- Numerous long, coarse hairs on body



Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

- Found in 2002 in Harris Co.
- Currently confirmed in 24 counties



Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

- Large colonies or groups of colonies
 - Indistinguishable
- Polygyne (multiple queens)
- Trailing
 - Erratic
 - Wider than 10 cm
 - Follow structural lines



Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

- Nesting
 - ▣ Under or in almost anything
 - ▣ Primarily outdoors but forage indoors
- Feeding
 - ▣ Omnivorous
 - ▣ Tend honeydew producers



Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

- Treatment
 - Do not respond well to most baits
 - Use contacts to create buffer zone
 - Als: pyrethroids, acephate, fipronil

 - Ants must be cleaned up between treatments

Black Crazy Ants

Paratrechina longicornis

- One node
- No sting
- Circle of hairs @ tip of abdomen
- Dark brown to black
- ~ 1/8" long
- Longer legs & longer antennae

- Monomorphic

- Eat honeydew, other insects, meat, grease, sweets & fruit



Black Crazy Ants

Paratrechina longicornis

- Run erratically
- May forage long distances
- Nuisance ant
- Nest under things, in trash piles, tree cavities, woodpiles
- Try baits, sprays, dusts



Argentine ants

Linepithema humile

- ~ 1/8", brownish
- One node, no sting
- No circle of hair @ abdomen tip
- No cone on thorax

- Monomorphic
- Eat- sweets, fresh fruit, and buds of some plants; tend honeydew-producers

- Introduced, exotic
 - South America



Argentine ants

Linepithema humile

- Dense foraging trails
- May invade homes
- Nuisance ant

- Large colonies-
“supercolonies”
 - Polygyne
 - Budding
 - Outdoors- in soil, under wood, rocks, etc., in treeholes

- Baits, sprays



Contact information

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