

PHAROAH ANT

DESCRIPTION

The Pharaoh Ant is a tiny ant about 1/10-1/16" long. Worker ants are reddish-yellow and the queen is usually darker red. The males are black.

Key Characteristics – Small size with a 3-segmented club on the antennae, well-developed eyes, a binodal petiole (narrow waist between thorax and abdomen) and no stinger present.

Food – Omnivorous, feeding generally on animal or vegetable food, dead insects, small animals, open wounds, shed human skin on bedding, sucrose and IV solutions, sweets and fats.



Photo Credit: April Nobile

HABITS

Typically, nests indoors are inside electrical conduits, in linen closets, in sterile surgical packets, under flowerpots, within walls of buildings, near water sources and in numerous other places. Pharaoh Ants prefer areas with a temperature around 27C and a relative humidity of about 80%. Foraging workers may travel over 100 feet for food.

CONTROL

Do not use chemical sprays to control Pharaoh Ant colonies. This will often alarm the ants when treatment occurs and will split their colony into smaller units. This activity worsens the situation.

Effective Pharaoh Ant control utilizes an integrated pest management approach, with focus on ant baits containing insecticides. With baiting, proper placement of the bait will result in effective ant control, however attention must be paid to detail to ensure ant elimination – checking for ant activity and placing baits in correct locations. Correct bait placement it is essential that highest level of sanitation be maintained. Ants must not be distracted from the bait by other food sources such as crumbs, spillages, dirty dishes, water, etc.