

Odorous ant

Identifying characteristics

- Workers are all the same size, small, 1/8-inch long
- Dark brown to shiny black
- Petiole with 1 node, hidden by abdomen
- Thorax uneven in shape when viewed from side
- Very strong odor when crushed



Behavior

- Feed on both dead and living insects, favoring aphid and scale honeydew
- In homes, forage primarily for sweets
- Travel in both wandering patterns and set trails
- Trails common along branches of trees, foundations, sidewalks, baseboards, and edges of carpets
- When disturbed, become erratic with their abdomens raised in the air

Nest type and size

- Live in shallow nests in soil under stones, wood, or debris
- May nest in various habitats including wooded areas, beaches, wall voids, and around water pipes and heaters
- Large colonies, with up to 10,000 workers and many queens

