

# White footed ant

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**Detailed Description:** Workers 2.5-3 mm (1/10-1/8 in) in length, black to blackish brown in color. Tarsi (“feet”) and antennal flagella yellowish white. Head as long as wide. Five abdominal segments visible from above. One petiolar node. No sting. Few erect hairs. Twelve-segmented antennae. Subfamily Dolichoderinae.

**Foraging Characteristics:** Many small to medium sized black ants foraging in tight trails that sometimes branch. Foragers on walls and vegetation. Foragers tend honeydew-producing insects as well as visit flowers. When disturbed, ants will run in small erratic circles (more slowly than crazy ants) but will not turn gasters over their bodies (as acrobat ants will). Blacker and stouter than Argentine ants, but similar in size and foraging behavior. Body sizes slightly variable, but no obvious size differences.

**Most Common Complaints:** Many foragers on outside walls and/or inside. Foragers on vegetation. Small gnat-like alates found dead around lights or windows on summer mornings. Piles of dead ants on windowsills, in sinks, corners, etc. Control by dilute sugar baits, chemical barriers to prevent structural access, and spraying landscape to control aphids and scales and to contaminate nest sites.



**Nest Sites & Characteristics:** Nests are usually outside, numerous, and often arboreal (in trees or shrubs, or in spaces above the ground in structures). Nests can be found in hollow branches, and in any small spaces that might accommodate a pocket of ants, including under potted plants, in leaf litter, in the bases of palm fronds or banana leaves, between cut logs, in yard toys, in old termite galleries, under bark, behind hurricane shutter brackets, under fascia boards, and between bricks. Nests are readily abandoned and relocated when disturbed. Colonies can have many hundreds of queens, spread out among many sub-colonies. Wingless reproductives cannot easily be distinguished from workers. Colony reproduction is by swarming or budding.

**Diet:** Honeydew from aphids and scale insects, and nectar from flowers and extra floral nectarines or sweets indoors. Protein such as dead animals, pet food and table scraps. Larvae fed by trophic eggs

