

Genera	Symbol	Common Name	Size* (mm)	Abdomen	Thorax	Head	Color	Behavior	Solitary/Trail?	Habitat	Food	Notes (9/29/2011 rev.)
Pheidole	PC		< 2		2 small spikes.	Square & prominent eyes; heads of majors disproportionately large.	Very Shiny, Reddish	Seed harvesters & small circular nests.	trails can be seen on the ground - mostly seem like floating seeds	Grassland & chaparral. Tiny entrances <5mm. Sometimes there might be a midden pile but not always.	Seeds & insects	Minor & major castes. Minors difficult to distinguish from SM.
Solenopsis	SM	Thief Ant	< 2	Small, round	Smooth	Short Antenna club shaped at end; small eyes. Sometimes referred to as "piss" ants.	Yellowish-red, shiny	Usually found in soil.	Solitary or in groups	Underground in soil.		Type of fire ant and can sting.
Cardiocondyla mauritanica	CM		~ 2 mm	Can excrete substance that is effective defense.	2-segmented like PC & SM, so has narrow look, with pronounced post-petiole.		Bi-colored, black	Seen foraging out of Messor nests.				Discovered at NE side of JRBP. Smaller than LH.
Stenammas	Ste		2			Small eyes.	Orangish.		Solitary!	Live under rocks & leaf litter.		(rarely seen in survey at JRBP)
Temnothorax	Tem	(formerly Leptothorax)	2	Round & hangs down compared to LH.	Slim, narrow	Round	Varied	Move slowly & usually alone	Solitary	Most commonly in wooded, shaded areas. Most commonly standing still on leaf, log, or tree trunk.		Three species or more, from brown to black to red. Some are bicolorated. Slow and will play dead.
Tapinoma	TS	Banana-Cream-Pie House Ant	2-3	Front hangs over the petiole - only JR ant like this.			Black; Darker than LH	slower than LH	Trails on trees, sometimes deep in bark	Grassland, woodland, chaparral	Sweets including nectar & aphid nectar, insects	Banana cream-pie/lemon odor when crushed; Can be confused for LH, but rounder, darker, more squarish, stouter body, & moves more slowly.
Linepithema	LH	Argentine Ant	2-3	= to head	Slim and smooth	Heads somewhat triangular	brown, grey, or black	Fast moving	Often in crowded trails	(Check out Coyote Brush); poke in gopher disturbed soil for nests	Sweets including nectar & aphid nectar, insects	Supercolony.
Crematogaster	CC	Acrobat Ant	3-4	Fro side view looks flat & heart-shaped.		Very round like bowling ball.	Shiny & black	Often curls abdomen straight up.	Groups or solitary	Grassland, woodland, chaparral	Forage on plants, often in groups	Can be confused with PI, but Flatter, wider abdomen, & flatter overall appearance than similar PI.
Prenolepis	PI	Winter Ant	3-4	Teardrop (pointed) abdomen that clearly rises above thorax; Abdomen very flexible in movement - the tip-off that distinguishes from PI.		Long antennae.	Black & shiny; legs & antennae lighter	Forage using trails & trees	Trails on trees; solitary ants also often seen	woodlands; isolated trees in grassland	Sweets including nectar & aphid nectar, Insects	Abdomen sometimes transparent; some size variation.
Neivamyrmex	NC	Army ants	3-4		long and slender	round	bright red	mostly nocturnal but also active at dusk and dawn.	small groups	grassland, mostly subterranean	the brood of other ants	very slender ants. Dead individuals can be seen on mounds of Messor.
Apheanogaster	AO	Seed Disperser Ant	4	Hanging abdomen.	Slender & long legs	Long antennae.	Brownish	Seed disperser.	more often solitary		Seeds & Insects	"Beautiful" with long legs and antennae. Found only in a few places at JRBP. May confuse with Tem because of body shape, but AO is larger.
Liometopum	LA	Velvety Tree Ant	3-6	Velvet, whitish, fuzzy appearance.		Eyes small & low on head.	Matte red & greyish-black, bi-colored		Will form crowded trails on ground or trees.	Woodland (they especially like big old oak trees, where they may nest)		Can be confused with For, acts like LH; Major & minor workers come in variety of sizes. Zig zagging gait
Formica	For	Field Ants	4-6	Often matted grey and striped with hairs	2 well defined humps.	Large eyes and they do see better than most other ants	Red & grey bi-colored or brown & black bi-colored.	Run with fast jerky motion, spider-like. Hard to catch.	Often forage alone or in small groups, often found on plants or tree trunks	Grassland, woodland, chaparral	Insects and sugar from plants	Several species; F. moki (red thorax & head) is most common, F. supolita is brown & black (not matted). Nests are in the soil, with large holes
Messor	MA	Harvester Ant	4-6	Noticeably smaller than head.	2 small spikes on the rear.	Big & square.	black	often carrying seeds or plant matter	Trail; forage in groups.	Grasslands; don't spend time on trees or brush; nests easily identified by large midden piles.	Seeds (and some insect parts)	Aggressive. A twig or grass into the nest will bring a response. Some nests may be abandoned. If you look closely at midden pile, you may see Camponotus heads. If the heads look recent, can be counted as present for both ants.
Camponotus	Camp	Carpenter Ant	6-10 (Some species are smaller ~5 mm)		Smooth & one hump	Big head & conspicuous mandibles	Common species is reddish & black; some all brown or black.	May appear to more more slowly than Formica	Forage alone or in scattered groups, often found on plants or tree trunks	Grassland, woodland, chaparral	Insects and sugar from plants	Smooth, glossy appearance; nests have big holes and are often seen on trails. At least 5 spp. @ Preserve, with smallest about size of Prenolepis imparis.

* Size can vary significantly within a given species. So these size rankings should only be used as a rough approximation.