

Fact sheet

African black sugar ant (*Lepisiota incisa*)

What is the African black sugar ant?

The African black sugar ant, *Lepisiota incisa*, is an invasive ant native to Africa. This species is previously unknown in Australia.

They are a shiny dark brown ant about 2- 3 mm in length.

The African black sugar ant is one of several invasive introduced ant species that have the ability to form super colonies by establishing interconnected nests with collaborative egg-laying queens. These super-colonies can spread for hundreds of square kilometres. These ants can be aggressive toward other ant species, potentially outcompeting and displacing important native ants.

African black sugar ant in Australia

African black sugar ants have been found in five Western Australian suburbs. They were first discovered in Maddington in 2020, followed by detections in Welshpool, Fremantle, Wattleup and Forrestfield.

How is African black sugar ant a problem?

African black sugar ants are highly suited to Australian conditions. They have a huge potential to establish in a wide variety of habitats, including precious undisturbed bush areas. Once established, the aggressive behaviour of the ant may disrupt social, commercial and agricultural activities. It has been known to harvest plastic, indicating a potential to damage infrastructure.

While this ant is a significant threat to our environment, it is not harmful to people or pets.

The African black sugar ant is a pest of national significance and all known infestations are under eradication.

Reporting suspicious ants

If you suspect you have African black sugar ants at your property you can report via:



MyPestGuide
via app or online reporting tool
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
T: +61 (0)8 9368 3080
E: padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au



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