

Protect Maui from the Little Fire Ant

Report Little Fire Ants



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Several ant species closely resemble the Little Fire Ant and can only be identified under a microscope. Submit suspect ants to the Maui Invasive Species Committee.

Common name: Little Fire Ant (LFA)

Scientific name: *Wasmannia auropunctata*

Behavior: Lives in trees as well as on the ground; they never build mounds. LFA sting when trapped, often on torso when they fall from overhanging brush.

Description: Tiny at about 1/16th inch (2mm) long. All one color, yellowish-orange to red and all worker ants are the same size.



Collect suspect ants using peanut butter & a chopstick, bag and freeze overnight, label with your contact information and mail to MISC, PO Box 983, Makawao HI 96768. Call or email with questions: miscpr@hawaii.edu, 573-6472. Find detailed collection information at www.stoptheant.org.

Other Ants on Maui:

Nearly 50 different species of ants have been detected on Maui even though Hawai'i has no native ants. By learning these ant species, you can better detect little fire ants.



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Common name: Black House Ant

Scientific name: *Ochetellus glaber*

Behavior: Lives in trees and also invades homes.

Description: 1/16th to 1/8th inch (2-3mm). All workers are the same size and ants are completely black.



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Common name: Black Crazy Ant

Scientific name: *Paratrechina longicornis* & *Nylanderia* spp.

Behavior: Fast-moving dark ants that bite.

Description: Medium size: 1/16th to 1/8th inch (2.5-3mm), all workers are the same size. Antennae and legs are unusually long.



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Common name: Big-headed Ant

Scientific name: *Pheidole megacephala*

Behavior: Occasionally bites.

Description: Medium size: 1/8 inch long (2 - 4mm), brownish-yellow in color. Workers come in two sizes: normal-heads and fat-heads. This is the most common ant on Maui.



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Common name: Tropical Fire Ant

Scientific name: *Solenopsis geminata*

Behavior: Aggressive swarming ant with a painful sting; builds low (1 inch high) mounds. **Report a mound larger than 3 inches to MISC: 573-6472.**

Description: Medium to large: 1/8th to 3/16th inch (3-5mm). Usually reddish - brown to brown with tail segment darker than the rest of the body. The workers come in a variety of sizes.

Ants by actual size:

-  Little Fire Ant
-  Black House Ant
-  Black Crazy Ant
-  Big-headed Ant*
-  Tropical Fire Ant*
-  Yellow Crazy Ant



* The workers of some ant species (Tropical Fire Ant and Big-headed Ant) vary in size. LFA workers are all the same size- tiny!

Find more resources at
www.stoptheant.org



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Common name: Yellow Crazy Ant

Scientific name: *Anoplolepis gracilipes*

Behavior: Ants move quickly without obvious pattern. They rarely bite.

Description: Large at 3/16th inch (5mm), all workers are the same size. Yellowish-brown to reddish-brown. Antennae and legs are unusually long.