

---

# Argentine Ant

## *Linepithema humile* (formerly *Iridomyrmex humilis*)

---

### Foraging

#### Characteristics:

Medium sized ant with a slender body, uniformly light brown or brown. Workers smell stale, greasy, or musty when crushed. Workers often present in large numbers moving in trails. Trails may be similar to white-footed ant trails, but ants are more slender and move more quickly so foraging trails may not appear as condensed. Workers may overwhelm outdoor eating areas, even entering parked cars.



### Detailed Description:

2.2-2.6 mm (1/11-1/10 in) long.

Twelve-segmented

antennae without

club. One segmented

petiole. Petiole with

vertically projecting  
scale. Body hairs usually  
absent from [thorax](#). No  
sting. [Subfamily](#)  
[Dolichoderinae](#).

**Most Common**  
**Complaint:** Many  
foragers inside and out.  
Does not normally nest  
indoors, and can often be  
excluded from  
buildings. Spraying  
outdoors may reduce  
numbers around  
buildings, but more may  
move in from surrounding  
areas. Baiting may reduce  
colonies outdoors.

**Flight Season:** No  
flights, reproduce by  
budding only. Alate  
queens present in colonies  
April to mid-June.

**Distribution:** Alachua,  
Bay, Duval, Escambia,  
Hillsborough, Leon,  
Okaloosa, Orange,  
Liberty, Pinellas, Polk,  
Putnam, Seminole,  
Washington, and Walton  
Counties.

**Origin:** Argentina.

**Nest Sites & Characteristics:** Multiple queens in many  
widespread subcolonies that dominate areas with millions  
of ants. Open habitats, both moist and dry. Usually in  
heavily disturbed sites but can invade natural  
environments. Nest in mulch and soil, under objects on  
soil or near tree roots, in trees, in rotten wood, and garbage  
piles.

**Diet:** Tend sap-sucking insects to collect [honeydew](#).  
Feed at [extrafloral](#) and [floral nectaries](#). Forage for sweets  
and proteins in homes.

