

## Green headed ants (*Rhytidoponera metallica*)

### Ants to watch out for

Red imported fire ants, yellow crazy ants, electric ants and carpenter ants, all pose a serious social, economic and environmental threat to Western Australia. If you suspect you have these ants or any ants you haven't seen before, please contact us on freecall 1800 084 881.



Green headed ants (*Rhytidoponera metallica*)

### Summary

Green headed ants (*Rhytidoponera metallica*) are native ants and are rarely considered pests. However, these ants possess a painful sting and as such, may cause concern.

### Where are they found?

These ants nest in the ground and are found outside in both urban and natural areas.

### Damage

These ants do not damage or nest in buildings, but they may cause concern due to their painful sting.

### Treatment

Insecticide sprays registered for ant control can be used to treat ants at the nest site. Granular baits can also offer control, although these are more expensive and may be best suited for larger areas. These products can be purchased from garden centres, hardware stores and agricultural chemical retailers.

### Contact

Pest and Disease Information Service  
(PaDIS)

Call: (08) 9368 3080

Email: [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)



## Exotic threats

The following ants could impact on our outdoor lifestyle and Western Australia's agricultural and food industries.

**Carpenter ants:** Elsewhere in the world there are *Camponotus* species that are pests of timber and like termites, if left unchecked can cause extensive damage to structural timber and furniture.

**Red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*):** One of the most serious ant pests in the world. These ants are aggressive, particularly near the nest and inflict a painful sting. They are present in south east Queensland and they could accidentally be imported into Western Australia.

**Electric ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*):** One of the world's worst invasive species, with a painful sting that will impact on outdoor lifestyle, the environment and agricultural industries. These ants are currently in northern Queensland and eradication efforts are underway.

**Yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*):** Ability to spray formic acid which causes burning and irritates the skin and eyes of animals and humans. Found in the Pacific region and on Christmas Island, this ant has also spread extensively since arriving in Queensland.

Under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) administered by the Department of Agriculture and Food, the introduction of these ants into Western Australia is prohibited and control measures must be taken to prevent them entering and establishing in the State.

If you think you have seen any of the above ant species please call the Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881.

Black carpenter ant (*Camponotus pennsylvanicus*) (photo: PaDIL), red imported fire ant, electric ant (photo: PaDIL), yellow crazy ant (photo: PaDIL)

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