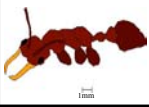


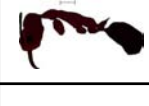



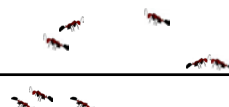

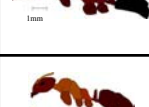
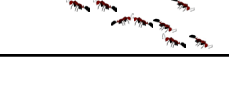


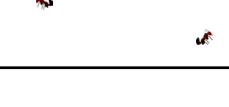


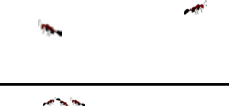








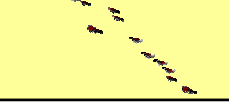






Common Ants in Alice Springs

Name	Worker (x5)	Foraging trail	Nest	Features
Bull or Inch Ant (<i>Myrmecia desertorum</i>)				Less common, large mounded nest in a cool place (eg under Eucalypt trees), forage in small numbers, all workers 1 size, varied diet, have nasty sting, will look you in the eye!
Trap Jaw Ant (<i>Odontomachus</i> sp)				Less common, nest may be difficult to find, forage alone with trap jaws wide open, all workers 1 size, catch live prey.
Sugar Ant (<i>Camponotus</i> sp)				Very common, several species in a variety of colours, nest anywhere from large mound in the open to hidden under rocks, forage in small groups, multiple sized workers, likes sweet things – may find paler species in your kitchen!
Meat Ant (<i>Iridomyrmex purpurescens</i>)				Common, nest in large flat bare areas with many round entrances, form long foraging 'highways' with many ants which may extend over hundreds of metres, all workers 1 size, general scavengers.
Desert Ant (<i>Melophorus</i> sp)				Common but shy, sandy nest often in the open, ants move very fast especially in heat, 'shoot' in and out of nest, mostly forage independently of each other, multiple sized workers with a large range in size, some with big heads, love hot weather!
Armoured Ant (<i>Rhytidoponera</i> sp)				Common but shy, several species varying in size and colour – some iridescent, nest may be hard to find, workers usually forage alone or in small groups, workers all 1 size, general predator/scavenger. NB: Ants with a constricted abdomen can sting!
Common Black Ant (<i>Iridomyrmex</i> sp)				Very common, inconspicuous nest often in the open, form busy trails with large numbers of ants, workers all 1 size, scavengers, closely related to Meat Ant but smaller, in some places can mass in huge numbers (on your patio?), smell when crushed.
Spiny Seed Ant (<i>Pheidole</i> sp)				Common, single entrance nest. Distinguish from their introduced relative the Big Headed Ant by larger size, often darker body colour, drier location and less extensive nest system. Big and small workers with rough heads and bodies!
Big Headed Ant * (<i>Pheidole megacephala</i>)				May completely 'take over' your backyard once introduced, nest in damp places with multiple nest entrances close together (eg pot plants, under pavers, near irrigation pipes), form slow-moving trails with many small workers and the occasional Big headed worker, nuisance in the house!
Smooth Seed Ant (<i>Monomorium</i> sp)				Relatively common, single entrance nest often in open, nests may have a 'seed rubbish dump', forage in small groups or alone for seeds and debris, all workers 1 size with smooth heads and bodies.

* The Big Headed Ant originated in South Africa and is a pest species in Australia. It is also known as the Coastal Brown Ant. It has probably been in Alice Springs since the early 1990s.



The Alice Springs Big Headed Ant Mapping Project

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