

Acrobat Ant

Size: Workers are 1/16 –1/8" long.
Queens are 3/8" long.



Description:

- Colour is light brown to black.
- Antenna are 11 segmented with 3 segmented clubs on end.
- Thorax has one pair of dorsal spines.
- Pedicel is 2 segmented and attached to upper side of abdomen.
- Abdomen is heart shaped and raised up over their thorax and head when disturbed.
- They release a repulsive odour when alarmed.
- Stinger is present.

Habits and Signs of Infestation: Inside buildings Acrobat Ants prefer high moisture, fungal decayed wood similar to conditions favored by Carpenter Ants. Acrobat Ants also like Styrofoam panels in walls and ceilings. Tunneling out and establishing their galleries in the voids. Often you observe the fine shavings (called Frass) of wood or Styrofoam that they eject from the nesting areas. These ant workers are usually observed in distinct trails coming in and out of the structure. Entering and exiting small cracks along the foundation, floor sill plate, walls, windows and door thresholds. Acrobat Ants herd aphids and mealy bugs to collect and feed on honeydew from these insects. In addition they will feed on live and dead insects. Indoors these ants have a preference for sweets and high proteins such as meat.

Control: If you observe these ants indoors or notice frass shavings, a thorough interior and exterior inspection is a must. Locating the ant colony precisely is very important. Begin by inspecting the exterior to determine the ant trail entry points. Look at all nearby shrubs and plants to confirm any aphid herding and honeydew collecting by the ants. From these exterior points you try to localize the ants interior travel route(s) to the interior voids that potentially harbor the colony. These key void areas are usually in very close proximity to past moisture damage or on going excessive moisture source. Once you have confirmed the location of the ant colony you need to drill small holes into the voids around that colony nest area. Dusting a residual insecticide directly into all the multiple voids around the colony to create a complete chemical barrier is essential. Followed by exterior – residual spray treatments to the ant trails and aphid occupied plants and shrubs outside and around the building. **Note:** Failure to encompass the entire colony in the void areas usually results in the queen(s) relocating a short distance and beginning to establish a new colony all over again. **BEST SOLUTION CALL *The Spidermen* !!!**