

Odorous House Ants

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Brown to black



Shape:

Segmented; oval



Size:

$\frac{1}{16}$ – $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long



Region:

Found throughout the U.S.



Odorous House Ants



Tapinoma sessile

OVERVIEW:

This ant gets its name from the strong, rotten coconut-like smell it gives off when crushed. These ants are one of the most common pests in the United States!

HABITS:

Odorous house ants like to eat sweets, especially honeydew. Indoors, they are likely to nest near moisture sources, such as in wall voids near hot water pipes, in heaters, beneath leaky fixtures in bathrooms, under kitchen or bathroom sinks and also in wood damaged by termites. Outside, they are often found in exposed soil or under stacks of firewood, lumber or bricks.

THREATS:

These ants do not pose a public health risk, but they can contaminate food and should be avoided.

PREVENTION:

- Clean up spills and crumbs on counter tops and kitchen floors.
- Eliminate standing water. Pests, such as odorous house ants, are attracted to moisture.
- Keep tree branches and other plants cut back from the house. Sometimes pests use these branches to get into your home.
- Make sure that there are no cracks or little openings around the bottom of your house. Ants commonly use these to get into your home.
- Make sure that firewood and building materials are not stored next to your home.
- If you suspect you have an odorous house ant infestation, contact a licensed pest professional.

DID YOU KNOW? Odorous house ants...

- are extremely fond of honeydew.
- move their nests every three months or so in response to rain.
- have been known to nest in honeybee hives, beneath the top and inner cover.

For more information, visit PESTWORLD.org

