

CrazyAnts

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Dark brown to black with a gray sheen



Shape:

Segmented; extremely long legs and antennae



Size:

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



Region:

Found throughout the U.S.



Crazy Ants



Paratrechina longicornis (Latreille)

OVERVIEW:

Crazy ants get their common name from the workers' habit of running in an erratic, jerky manner when searching for food.

HABITS:

Crazy ants feed primarily on live and dead insects, seeds, fruits and honeydew. They enter homes in the autumn or after rainfall because both conditions reduce their supply of honeydew. Inside, crazy ants usually nest underneath floors or carpeting, in potted plants and in wall voids. Outdoors, their nests are shallow and commonly found in soil under objects or next to foundations. Crazy ants are highly adaptable, nesting in both dry and moist habitats.

THREATS:

Crazy ants do not pose a health threat, but if they gain entry to a structure they can become a nuisance.

PREVENTION:

- Trim vegetation away from your home to prevent pathways inside.
- Seal all cracks and crevices around the outside of your home, including around doors and windows.
- Food spills and other potential attractants should be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- If you suspect you have a crazy ant infestation, contact a licensed pest professional.

DID YOU KNOW? Crazy ants...

- are found throughout the U.S., but are confined to the indoors in the northern states because they cannot survive the winter outdoors.
- are known to completely abandon one nesting site and move to another.
- usually live in small colonies, composed of up to 2,000 workers, but larger colonies of more than 10,000 ants have also been found in debris piles and mulch beds.

For more information, visit PESTWORLD.org

