White-footed ant - Technomyrmex albipes (360)

Summary

- Males, winged and wingless; three kinds females (queens, workers, 'intercastes'). Queens mate, establish colony; later, reproductive (fertilised) intercastes later take over. Foraging by (unfertilised) workers - living/dead insects, honeydew, own eggs.
- Tramp ant; spread by 'budding' - intercastes leave nest with workers, males and brood; spread with international trade.
- Biosecurity: requires risk assessments, regulations preventing introduction, protocols in case of breaches, and ability to make rapid response. Pacific Ant Prevention Plan available (IUCN/SSC Invasive Specialist Group).
- Cultural control: hot water at 47°C kills ants; over 49°C kills plants.

Common Name

White-footed ant; white-footed house ant.

Scientific Name

*Technomyrmex albipes*. Identification of the ant requires expert examination as there are several other species that are similar. Many specimens previously identified as *Technomyrmex albipes* have subsequently been reidentified as *Technomyrmex difficilis* (difficult white-footed ant) or as *Technomyrmex vitiensis* (Fijian white-footed ant), which also occurs worldwide.