

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

ASIAN NEEDLE ANT

(*Brachyponera chinensis*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

The Asian Needle Ant (or Chinese Needle Ant)...

- Are moderately sized (workers 4-5 mm, queen 6.5 mm).
- Have a shiny black body with brown to red legs.
- Are generalists that hunt or scavenge for various types of food.
- Are unable to climb glass surfaces like native ant species.



Photo credit: Benoit Guenard

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREAT:

The sting of Asian Needle Ants is painful and potentially dangerous to people and animals.

SPREAD

Dispersal of Asian Needle Ants occurs by colony budding (individuals leave and form a new colony) or when mated females fly and form new colonies. One colony can inhabit several nest sites with one or multiple queens, creating a super-colony. Individuals or partial colonies of Asian Needle Ants could be transported in products like plants, soil and wood, resulting in new introductions.

Colonies nest in a variety of locations but prefer moist substrates such as rotting wood. Asian Needle Ants could potentially survive in several habitats within B.C., specifically the southern coast.



Photo credit: agoramedia.com

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>



ASIAN NEEDLE ANT (*Brachyponera chinensis*)



Photo credit: ©April Nobile/AntWeb.org

DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

The Asian Needle Ant is native to parts of East Asia, including the islands of Honshu, Kyushu and eastern China. Asian Needle Ants have not been reported anywhere in Canada. There has been one single record in Washington State, in the town of Bellingham.

LOOK-ALIKES:

There are several ant species in B.C. that appear similar to the Asian Needle Ant and there are several species that can sting; they are all introduced species: the **European Fire Ant** (*Myrmica rubra*), **Impressive Fire Ant** (*M. specioides*) and **Tropical Stinging Ant** (*Hypoponera punctatissima*). If unable to identify an ant you suspect might be one of these invasive species, please collect a sample and mail to an expert for identification. Instructions on how to do this can be found [here](#). Send samples to one of the following locations:

Location 1: Dr. Rob Higgins, Department of Biological Sciences, Thompson Rivers University, 805 TRU Way, Kamloops, BC, V2C 0C8

Location 2: Attn: Claudia Copley, Natural History Section, Entomology Department, Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville St, Victoria, BC, V8X 9W2

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Check for and remove any ants being carried in traded products (soil, mulch, plants etc.)
- Be wary of soil collected anywhere other than commercial bagged sources.
- Raise awareness in your community to avoid the spread.

DID YOU KNOW?

Climate warming could allow Asian Needle Ants to increase their range distribution into Northern regions.



Photo credit: NCSU

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