

FAST FACTS

- There are more than 12,000 species of ants all over the world.
- An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight.
- When **foraging** ants leave a **pheromone** trail, so that they know where they've been.
- Some queen ants can live for many years and have *millions* of babies!
- Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.
- Ants don't have lungs. They breath through tiny holes all over their body.
- When ants fight, it is usually to the death!
- When the queen of the colony dies, the colony can only survive a few months.

General Information

Carpenter Ants get their name because they build their nests in wood and can damage to the wood in your house. Each colony is established by a single, fertilized queen. She starts her nest in a cavity in wood, where she raises her first brood of workers. She feeds them saliva and does not leave the nest or feed herself during this time.

When they are ready, those workers then get the job of gathering food to feed the next generation. Once mature, this first generation of worker ants work to increase the food supply for the colony. A colony can eventually produce 2,000 or more workers.

Size: 5/8"	Common Name: Carpenter Ant
Shape: Segmented, Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Range in color from red to black.	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Varies	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Formicidae
	Genus Species: Camponotus

Diet

Sucking lice are parasites. They feed on blood and *only* appear on mammals. Most species of Sucking lice prefer to feed off rodents. "Head lice" and "crab lice" are more commonly found on humans.

Habitat

The only way "head lice" can get food and water is by sucking blood from the scalp but they can be found on other parts of the body. They can spread from one person to the next through contact with bedding, clothing or by sharing combs. "Head lice" are common problems in crowded places, such as elementary schools, since children tend to share clothing more and frequently come into close contact with each other.

"Crab lice" are usually found in other areas containing hair, such as beards, eyebrows, armpits and the pubic region. "Crab lice" aren't as common in places such as schools, since they can only be spread through direct physical contact.

Impact

Hundreds of years ago, due to lack of hygiene and over crowding in dirty conditions, lice were considered deadly because they carried deadly diseases such as **Typhus**. Today, Sucking lice are not really considered a health threat, but their bites may result in itching and redness around the area of the bite.



CARPENTER ANT INFO SHEET

If you suspect exposure to lice, wash all clothes, bedding, combs, towels, etc. You can also use special combs, shampoos and conditioners designed specifically to treat lice. Also, try saturating hair with baby oil at night to kill both lice and their eggs. If you do this, wrap a towel around your head to keep from soiling your bedding and be sure to wash your hair thoroughly in the morning.

See other side for suggestion on preventing this pest.

Prevention

- * Avoid using other individuals' combs, hats, towels, etc.
- * Have someone check your scalp at least once a month to make sure you haven't been exposed.

To learn more about this and other ants, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/ants.html>