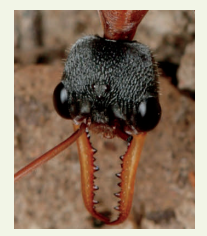


Find the "Hero Ant" of Hattah Kulkyne National Park

1



Long jaws →



Short jaws →

2

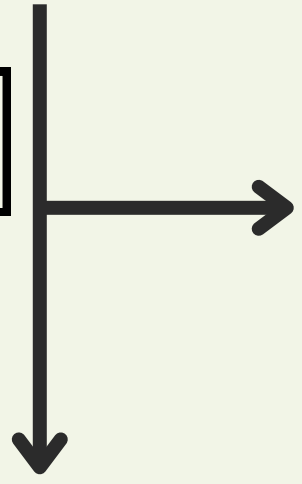


Two nodes →



One node

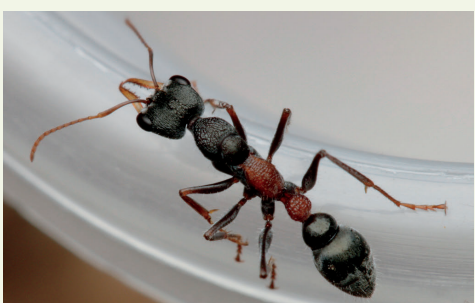
3



Myrmeciinae - Bull ants



Red Bull Ant / Inch Ant
Myrmecia gulosa group



Jack Jumpers
Myrmecia urens group

Common

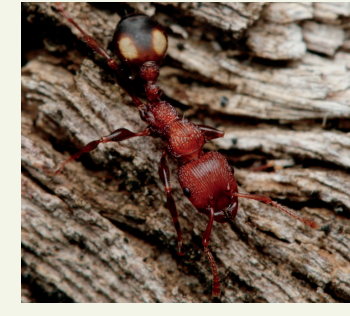
Not so common

Hero ants

Myrmicinae



Big Headed Ant
(*Pheidole* sp.)



Spotted Muscle Ant
(*Podomyrma gratiosa*)

Ponerinae - Pony Ants



Titan Pony Ant
(*Rhytidoponera maniae*)



Green-head Ant
(*Rhytidoponera metallica*)

Ponerinae - Snappy Ants



Trap-jaw Ant
(*Odontomachus* sp.)

Dolichoderinae



Meat Ant
(*Iridomyrmex purpureus*)

Formicinae - Sugar Ants



Sugar Ant (Hero Ant for Ogyris)
(*Camponotus terebrans*)



Banded Sugar Ant
(*Camponotus consobrinus*)



Black-headed Sugar Ant
(*Camponotus nigriceps*)

Formicinae - Spiny Ants

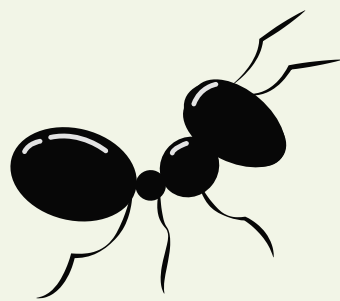


Polyrachis schwiedlandi



Polyrachis phryne

All images (c) Daniel Kurek



Common ants of Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

Ants are everywhere and they are so important for us and the environment! This identification guide helps you find one of the "hero species".
A special Sugar Ant (*Camponotus terebrans*) looks after the caterpillars of the threatened Arid Bronze Azure butterfly

Subfamily MYRMECIINAE

Bull Ants

- The Red Bull Ant is huge! Sometimes called Inch Ants they can be as long as 15-30mm and construct pit-like nests up to 2m in diameter! *Myrmecia desertorum*, *M. nigriceps* and *M. fuscipes* are very similar-looking species in the *M. gulyas* group.
- Jack Jumpers are fairly common, small ants that really can jump!
- !! Bull Ants can sting you and this may cause anaphylactic shock in some people !!

Subfamily RHYTIDOPONERA

Pony Ants

- The Titan Pony Ants are medium-sized and very similar in appearance (*Rhytidoponera maniae*, *R. mayri*, *R. punctiventris*).
- The Green-head Ant is a common, small species found in urban and bushland areas. A stinging nuisance.
- Trap-jaw Ants are not very common and can be mistaken for Bull Ants. Look for the bend in the jaws (mandibles).

Subfamily MYRMICINAE

Big-headed Ants

- Worker ants in these colonies look different - there is a minor form with small heads, and a major form with big heads. The minors can be <1mm long! and the majors are easy to identify by their uniquely large head and small body.

Spotted Muscle Ant

- Identified by cream patches on the abdomen and swollen upper legs. Live in trees, particularly Eucalypts.

Subfamily DOLICHODERINAE

Meat Ants

- These Meat Ants construct large, flat nests decorated with small dry twigs and woody plant materials and void of vegetation. There are many nest entrances. The head and middle part (mesosoma) of the ant are reddish-brown with purple iridescence.

Subfamily FORMICINAE

Sugar Ant (*Camponotus* spp.). These ants are nocturnal!

- **Ogyris Sugar Ant - *C. terebrans* nests in sandy soil, often around the base of trees. It has a black head and a black abdomen.**
- **Banded Sugar Ant - *C. consobrinus* nests in heavier soils. Has a distinct orange-yellow band on its abdomen**
- **Black-headed Sugar Ant - *C. nigriceps* has an orange abdomen and is the most commonly observed species at night.**
- Queens can live for 20+ years. They might appear aggressive but they don't have a sting.

Spiny Ants

- The nocturnal Spiny Ants can sometimes be confused for Sugar Ants, although they are not nearly as common. Look for the spines on the middle bit of the ant (mesosoma and petiole).



(Right)

The nocturnal Sugar Ant (*Camponotus terebrans*) with fresh (dark) and old (pale) butterfly eggs.

This is a **HERO SPECIES**.
When the caterpillars hatch from eggs, the ants take them into their nest and raise them until they emerge as butterflies