

Section I.
Invasive and Emerging Pests

2008 IDAHO ANT SURVEY

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ISDA and the University of Idaho, W.F. Barr Entomology Museum initiated a cooperative ant survey targeting exotic species and species of regulatory importance to Idaho. The key species targets including: Imported red fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*), Argentine ant (*Iridomyrmex humilis*), and Pharaoh ant (*Monomorium pharaonis*). Cooperating organizations collecting survey samples included: The ISDA field investigators, members of the Idaho Mosquito and Vector Control Association, and the Idaho Environmental Care Association. Special ant collection kits were assembled and mailed to 127 survey participants. Each kit contained 6 plastic collection vials making the potential collection total 762. At the conclusion of the survey, ISDA received 167 ant samples from cooperators for a response rate of 22%. Collection sites were distributed through most of Idaho with individual samples taken from 25 of 44 Idaho counties. Ant collection sites included: urban premises, urban-rural outdoor sites and nurseries. Ant species determinations were made by Frank



Pavement ant (*Tetramorium caespitum*)
Photo credit-California Academy of
Science AntWeb

Merickel, U of I Entomology Museum curator. The results of the ant survey and relative species collection frequencies are presented in the table below. **No ants of regulatory concern were collected nor were there any new species records as a result of this survey.** The dominant species in the survey was the Pavement Ant (*Tetramorium caespitum*). The first state record was 1979 in Lewistown, Nez Perce County, collector H. Homan. The first Boise, Idaho record was 1988*. *T. caespitum* has spread rapidly across the Gem State becoming a dominant pest species in the current list of 102 Idaho formicid species

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IDAHO ANT SURVEY SUMMARIZED

Common name	Scientific name	Number of Collections
Pavement ants	<i>Tetramorium caespitum</i>	87
Harvester ants	<i>Pogonomyrmex salinus</i>	27
Field ants	<i>Formica sp</i>	24
Carpenter ants	<i>Campanotus sp</i>	13
Cornfield ants	<i>Lasius sp</i>	10
Odorous house ants	<i>Tepinoma sessile</i>	3
Thief ants	<i>Solenopsis molesta</i>	2
Total		166

Percent of Species in Total Collections

