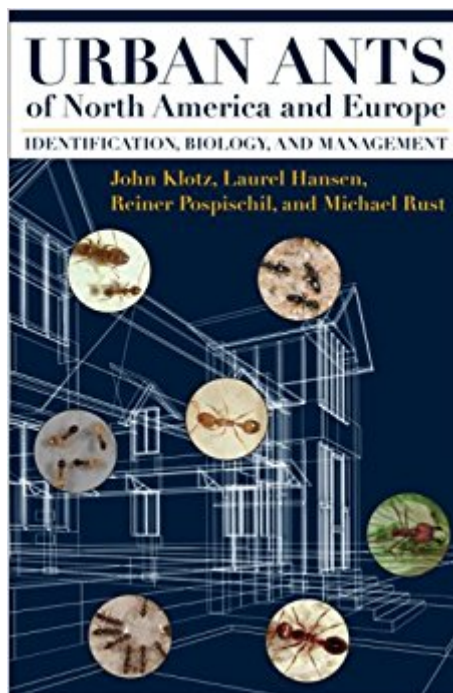




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Urban Ants Of North America And Europe: Identification, Biology, And Management



Synopsis

Ants that commonly invade homes, damage structures, inflict painful bites, or sting humans or their pets are considered pest ants. This illustrated identification guide highlights forty species of ants that pose difficulties in urban settings. Included are well-known invasive troublemakers such as the red imported fire ant and Argentine ant, as well as native species. After an introductory chapter on the evolution, biology, and ecology of pest ants, the book follows a taxonomic arrangement by subfamily. Each subfamily chapter includes separate illustrated keys to both the genera and species of that group to enable entomologists and pest control professionals to identify pest ants correctly. The species accounts cover biology, distribution, and methods for excluding and/or removing ants from human structures and landscapes. The authors focus on the ants' biology and nesting behavior, life cycles, and feeding preferences; an intimate understanding of these factors enables the implementation of the least toxic control methods available. A chapter on control principles and techniques encompasses chemical strategies, habitat and structural modifications, biological control, and integrated pest management methods. Urban Ants of North America and Europe also contains valuable information on the diagnosis and treatment of human reactions to ant stings and bites. This comprehensive reference work on these economically significant ants includes the scientific, English, French, Spanish, and German names for each species and a summary of invasive ant species in the United States and Europe.

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Customer Reviews

"I recommend *Urban Ants of North America and Europe* as a reference for both academics and practitioners. The information it provides on ant biology and behavior, as well as the chapters on ant stings and ant management, are especially notable. This book is a very important contribution not only to urban entomology but also to biology and the natural sciences." •Gary W. Bennett, Purdue University

"The rise of ants to ecological dominance has been called one of the great epics in evolution. The same features associated with their ecological success, however, also make them destructive invaders and pests. In this extremely useful book, the authors provide us with a guide to the amazing feats of the ant world. They balance fascinating ant biology with practical advice for controlling the few 'bad apples' that trouble our urban lives. Ants will continue to share our cities, but with the easy-to-use identification keys and detailed descriptions of biology and habits, we have a chance to know them and learn their ways." •Brian Fisher, California Academy of Sciences

John Klotz is Associate Extension Urban Entomology Specialist and Associate Entomologist at the University of California, Riverside. Laurel Hansen teaches biology, zoology, and pesticide education at Spokane Falls Community College and is an adjunct faculty member at Washington State University. Hansen and Klotz are coauthors of *Carpenter Ants of the United States and Canada*, also from Cornell. Reiner Pospischil trains pest-control operators and plans and supervises external tests of new pest-control products for Bayer CropScience, Environmental Science, in Monheim am Rhein, Germany. Michael Rust is Professor of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside.

I bought this book for my teenage son. He is fascinated by ants. I read through it myself (I was bored) and learned quite a bit about ants that was fascinating. I wish there were more color photographs but those that are included are exceptional. This isn't a book for little kids but hobbyists with ant farms, exterminators, and people who just like learning about nature will like it.

Great reference book that covers a topic that virtually everyone deals with but knows very little about.

"*Urban Ants of North America and Europe*" by John Klotz, Laurel Hansen, Reiner Pospischil and Michael Rust. 196 pages, softcover, © 2008, Comstock Publishing Associates. We define animal life as "good" or "bad" depending on whether the critter interferes with our lives. Of the estimated 15,000 species of ants, some enter our homes or otherwise disturb our existence. This is far more than a cookbook for pest control practitioners. This provides the fuller

ant biology, from life cycles and nesting behaviors to identification keys and behaviors. This allows the reader to more fully understand the complexity of these most successful forms of life. The set of color plates inserted at the front is less helpful than most readers would expect since the identifying features are not generally apparent in photographs. The identification guides are well-designed and appear later in the book under each subfamily. The first chapter briefly discusses the origin of social behavior, economic importance, extent of exotic introductions, general life history with line drawings, general biology and taxonomy, and a key to subfamilies. The subsequent chapters detail each subfamily: 2)Formicinae, 3)Dolichoderinae, 4)Myrmicinae, 5)Ponerinae, 6)Pseudomyrmecinae, and 7)Ecitoninae. Chapter 8 addresses the diagnosis and medical consequences of ant stings and bites. Chapter 9 describes chemical controls, habitat modification and biological control of ants. The appendices list: 1)Scientific and Common Names of Urban Ants, 2)Urban Ant Species Introduced into Europe, and 3)Urban Ant Species Introduced into the United States. The keys and line drawings with arrows pointing to the key features are very well drawn. The black-and-white photos however are printed on non-gloss paper and serviceable but not always distinct. Tables reveal temperature ranges and other details that take ant control beyond mindless spraying and set the context for intelligent management of ant problems. The cover, print production and binding is of good quality to withstand usage. This is a "Comstock Book" by Cornell University Press and follows a standard format that matches other entomological titles, including the book "Carpenter Ants" also authored by Hansen and Klotz and published in 2005.

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