Ant genera of Baja California

A picture guide to subfamilies and genera (workers)



Dolichoderinae

5 genera



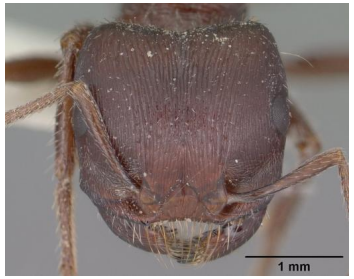
Dorylinae

3 genera



Formicinae

12 genera



Myrmicinae

18 genera



Ponerinae

2 genera



Pseudomyrmecinae

1 genus

Ant Course 2026 · Draft v3, 11 October 2026

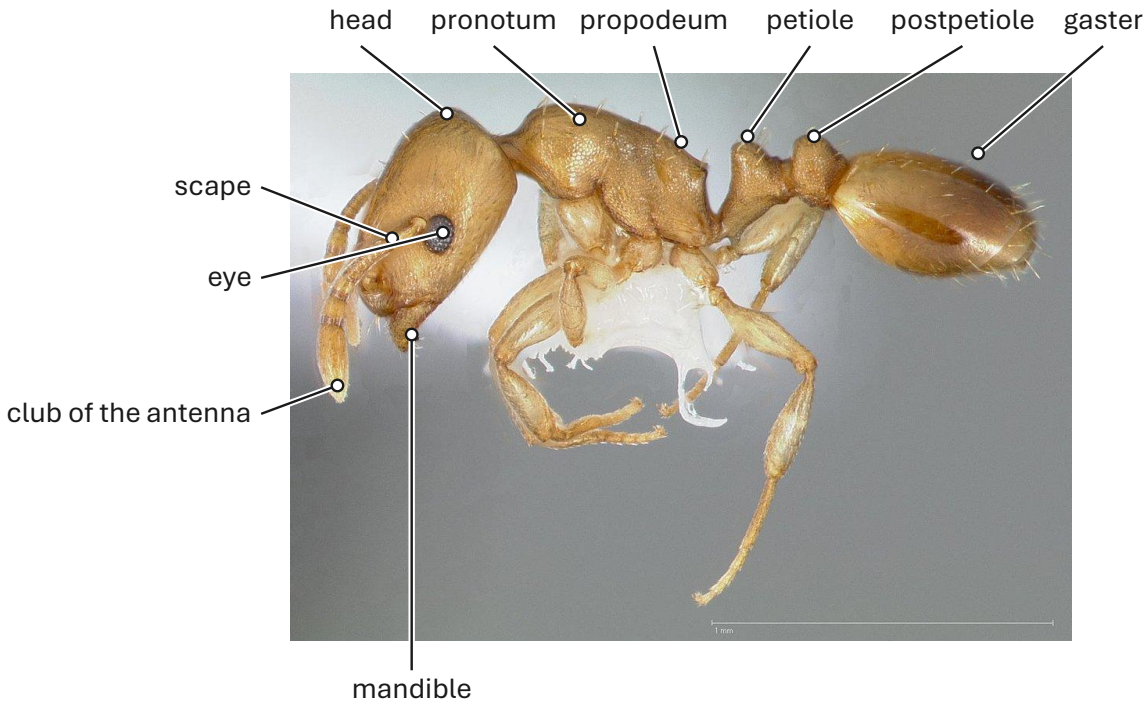
Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons. Full credits on the last page.

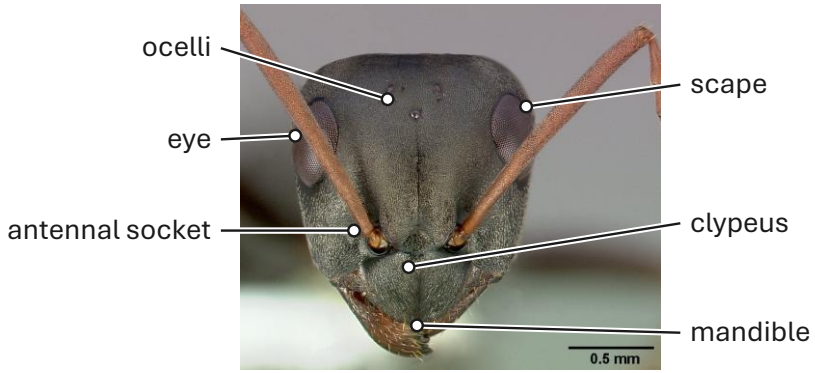
How to use this guide

- For **workers** only. Queens and males need other keys.
- First find the **subfamily** (pages 3 and 4), then use the genus key of that subfamily.
- Check the result on the **genus page**: the numbers on the photos match the numbered characters.
- Look at several workers from the same nest or sample. Size and colour vary within a genus: rely on structure. Sizes given are approximate body lengths.
- On the line drawings in the keys, a thin line points to the character.
- The guide covers 41 genera in 6 subfamilies; 40 are recorded from the peninsula. “Taxa” are named species plus unnamed forms on our two lists. BC = Baja California, BCS = Baja California Sur.
- Species need the specialist keys: start from AntWiki and AntWeb.

Words used in the keys

Mesosoma: the middle part of the body, with the legs: thorax plus propodeum.
Propodeum: the rear part of the mesosoma; it often bears a pair of spines or teeth.
Waist: one segment (petiole) or two (petiole and postpetiole) between mesosoma and gaster.
Gaster: the large rear part of the body.
Scape: the long first segment of the antenna. Count antennal segments with the scape included.
Club: the enlarged last segments of the antenna.
Clypeus: the plate on the front of the head, just above the mandibles.
Frontal lobes: two flaps on the face that cover the antennal sockets.
Psammophore: a basket of long curved hairs under the head, used to carry sand.
Acidopore: a round nozzle at the tip of the gaster (Formicinae).



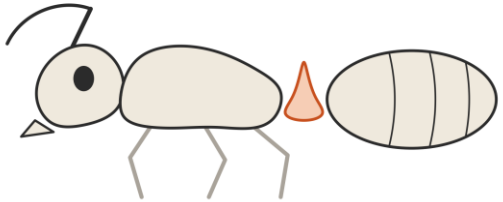


Side view: *Temnothorax andrei*

Front view of the head: *Formica argentea*

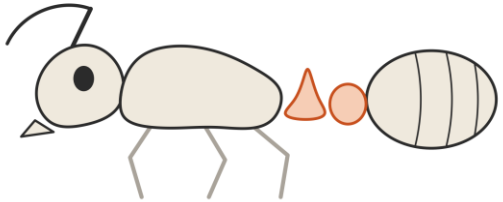
Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005683, CASENT0005361).

Key to subfamilies, 1: count the waist segments



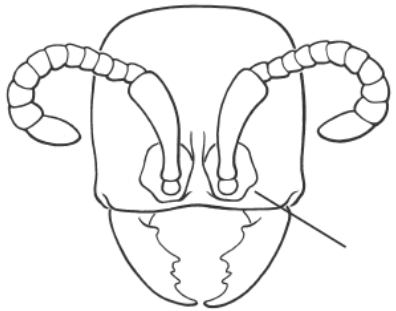
1a **One** segment between mesosoma and gaster (the petiole). It can be small and hidden (*Tapinoma*)

→ **step 3, next page**



1b **Two** small segments (petiole and postpetiole); the second is much smaller than the gaster segment behind it

→ **step 2**



Neivamyrmex

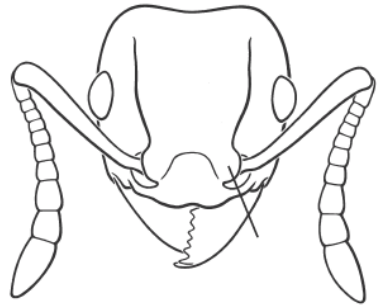
2a Antennal sockets fully exposed, close to the front edge of the head. Eyes absent or one tiny facet

→ **Dorylinae** p. 10



2b Eyes very large, about half as long as the head. Body long and narrow; pronotum movable against the mesonotum

→ **Pseudomyrmecinae** p. 37



Tetramorium

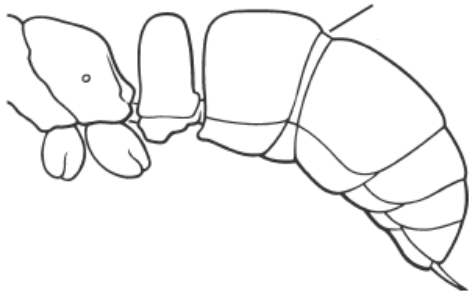
2c Sockets partly covered by the frontal lobes. Eyes smaller (very small in a few genera). Pronotum and mesonotum fused

→ **Myrmicinae** p. 22

Dorylinae appear twice: army ants (*Neivamyrmex*) have two waist segments; *Syscia* and *Acanthostichus* have one, followed by a large segment that can look like a second one. Both routes lead to the Dorylinae key.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005440). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Key to subfamilies, 2: one waist segment



Hypoponera

3a Gaster with a girdle-like **constriction** after its first segment. Sting present. Body hard

→ **step 4**



Liometopum

3b Gaster **without** a constriction. No sting. Body softer

→ **step 5**



last tergite, from the side

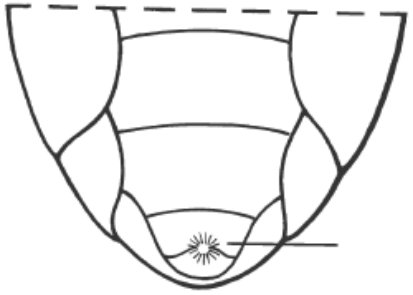
4a Last tergite flattened and edged with rows of peg-like teeth. Antennal sockets exposed; eyes absent or minute; body a cylinder

→ **Dorylinae** p. 10



4b Last tergite rounded, without pegs. Frontal lobes cover the antennal sockets

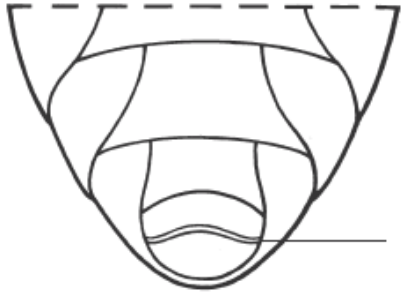
→ **Ponerinae** p. 35



gaster tip, from behind

5a Gaster tip with a round nozzle (**acidopore**), usually with a fringe of hairs. If there is no fringe, the antennal sockets sit well behind the clypeus (*Camponotus*)

→ **Formicinae** p. 13



gaster tip, from behind

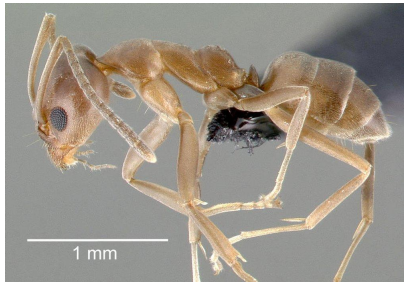
5b Gaster tip with a **slit**, no fringe of hairs. Antennal sockets at the rear edge of the clypeus. Many species smell when crushed

→ **Dolichoderinae** p. 6

Step 5: look at the gaster tip from behind, at high magnification. Two more subfamilies with one waist segment and a sting, Amblyoponinae and Proceratiinae, occur in California: see pages 35 and 38.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005436). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

The six subfamilies recorded from Baja California



Dolichoderinae p. 6

5 genera, 25 taxa in the peninsula

One waist segment. Gaster tip is a slit, without a fringe of hairs; no sting. Soft body; many smell when crushed.



Dorylinae p. 10

3 genera, 10 taxa in the peninsula

Antennal sockets exposed at the front of the head; eyes absent or tiny. Army ants (two waist segments) and cylindrical soil hunters.



Formicinae p. 13

12 genera, 92 taxa in the peninsula

One waist segment. Gaster tip with a round nozzle (acidopore), usually with a fringe of hairs; no sting.



Myrmicinae p. 22

18 genera, 130 taxa in the peninsula

Two waist segments. Frontal lobes cover the antennal sockets; pronotum and mesonotum fused. Most genera and most species.



Ponerinae p. 35

2 genera, 8 taxa in the peninsula

One waist segment; gaster with a girdle-like constriction after its first segment; strong sting; hard body.



Pseudomyrmecinae p. 37

1 genus, 3 taxa in the peninsula

Two waist segments, very large eyes, long narrow body, short scapes. Live in dead twigs and branches.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0006019, CASENT0005330, CASENT0005361, CASENT0005683, CASENT0178787, CASENT0005440).

Dolichoderinae: key to the genera



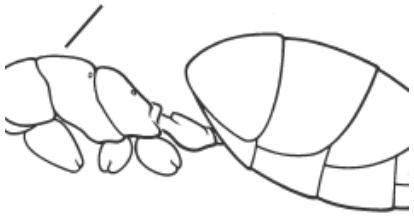
1a Propodeum with a cone-shaped tooth pointing up. Third segment of the maxillary palp very long

→ ***Dorymyrmex*** p. 7



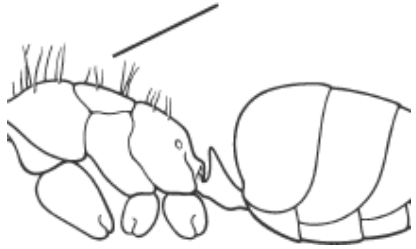
1b Propodeum without a cone. Palp segments short

→ **step 2**



2a Mesosoma **without** standing hairs on top

→ **step 3**



2b Mesosoma **with** standing hairs on top (look against a dark background; they can rub off)

→ **step 4**



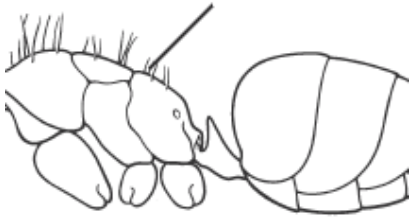
3a No upright scale: petiole flat, hidden under the front of the gaster. Upper face of the propodeum much shorter than the rear face

→ ***Tapinoma*** p. 9



3b Petiole with an upright scale. Upper and rear faces of the propodeum about equally long

→ ***Linepithema*** p. 8



4a Mesosoma outline even: only a fine line before the propodeum. Workers of different sizes. Hairs on the front edge of the clypeus short

→ ***Liometopum*** p. 8

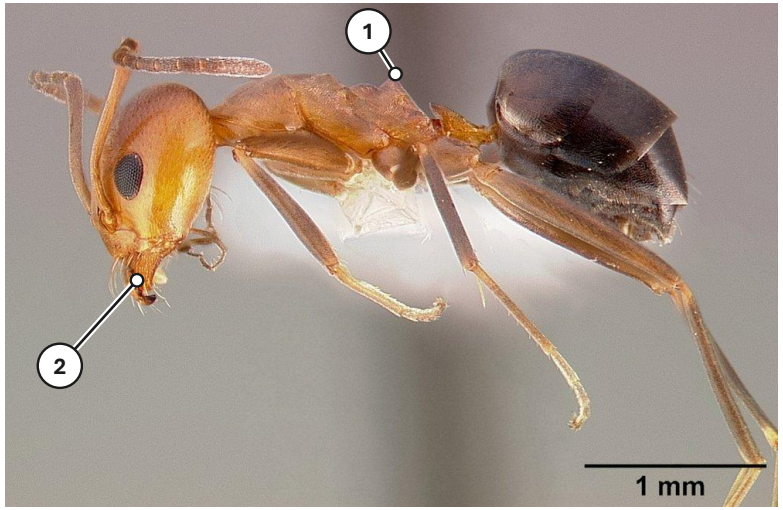


4b Outline broken by a clear groove before the propodeum. Workers all one size. Long curved hairs on the clypeus reach or pass the closed mandibles

→ ***Forelius*** p. 7

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005318). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Dorymyrmex · *Forelius*



Dorymyrmex bicolor, CASENT0005318



Dorymyrmex bicolor, CASENT0005318

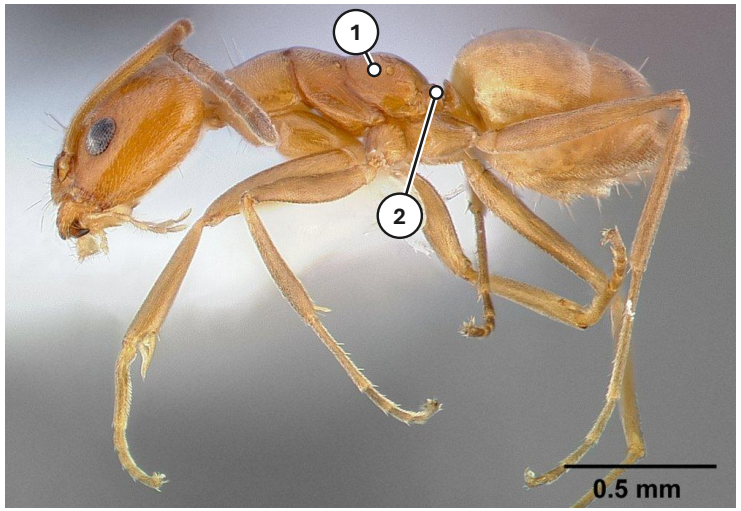
Dorymyrmex 2.5–4 mm

Peninsula: 14 taxa · BC 12 · BCS 10 · 2 endemic

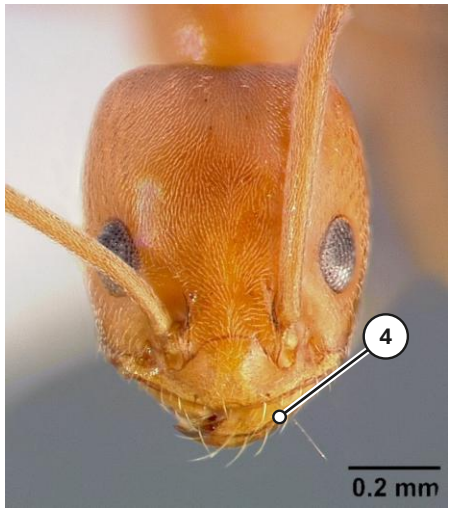
1. Propodeum with one cone-shaped tooth pointing up
2. Long curved hairs under the head (psammophore); third segment of the maxillary palp very long
3. Slender, long legs; often two-coloured

Compare: *Forelius* (no cone); *Myrmecocystus* (Formicinae: acidopore, no cone)

In Baja: Open ground from beaches to desert, at low and middle elevations; small crater nests; fast runners.



Forelius pruinosus, CASENT0005320



Forelius pruinosus, CASENT0005320

Forelius 2–2.5 mm

Peninsula: 4 taxa · BC 4 · BCS 3 · 2 endemic

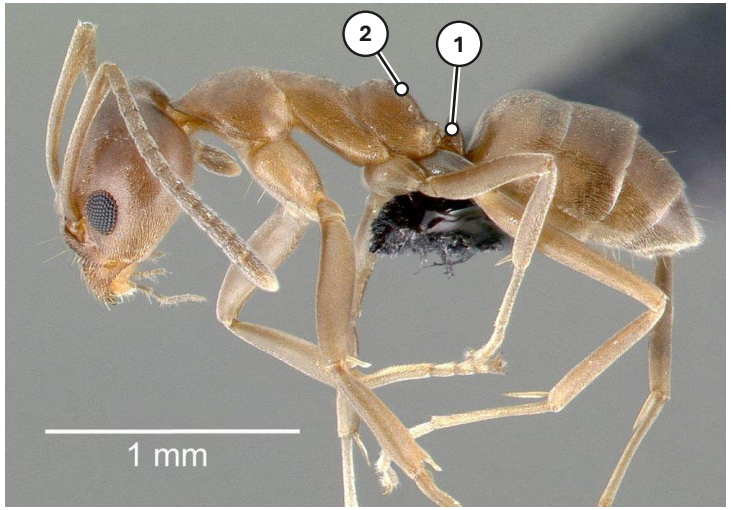
1. Mesosoma outline broken by a clear groove before the propodeum; no cone
2. Petiole with a distinct scale
3. Standing hairs on the mesosoma, at least two on the pronotum (they rub off)
4. Clypeus with long curved hairs that reach or pass the closed mandibles
5. Tiny, pale orange to dark brown; workers all one size

Compare: *Linepithema*, *Tapinoma* (no standing hairs on the mesosoma); *Liometopum* (even outline, several sizes)

In Baja: Hot, bare desert ground; very active in the heat of the day; conspicuous foraging trails.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005318, CASENT0005320).

Linepithema · *Liometopum*



Linepithema humile, CASENT0006019



Linepithema humile, CASENT0006019

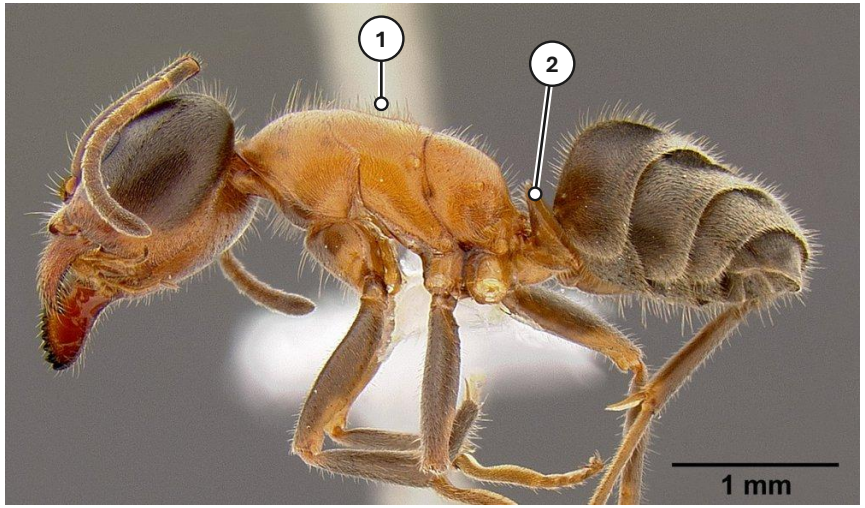
Linepithema 2.2–2.8 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 1 · BCS 2

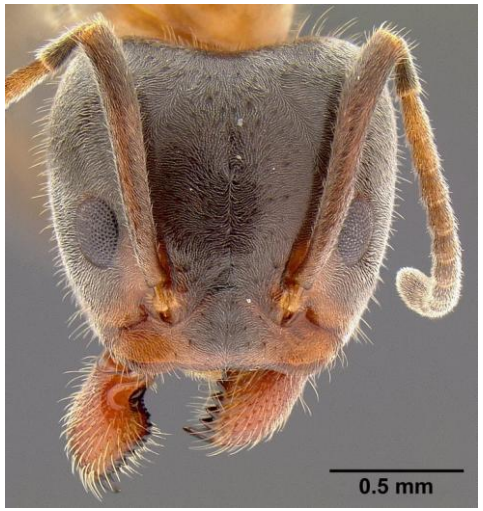
1. Petiole scale upright and clearly visible
2. Propodeum a rounded hump: upper and rear faces about equally long
3. No standing hairs on the mesosoma
4. Dull brown; workers all one size

Compare: *Tapinoma* (no visible scale; upper face of the propodeum very short); *Forelius* (standing hairs)

In Baja: *L. humile* (Argentine ant), introduced: towns, gardens, irrigated land, dense trails. *L. dispertitum* is native (BCS).



Liometopum occidentale, CASENT0106078



Liometopum occidentale, CASENT0106078

Liometopum 2.5–6 mm

Peninsula: 3 taxa · BC 3 · BCS 0

1. Mesosoma outline one even arch: only a fine line before the propodeum
2. Petiole scale upright and sharp
3. Standing hairs on the mesosoma; dense fine hair gives a velvety sheen
4. Workers of different sizes; large ones with a wide, heart-shaped head

Compare: *Forelius* (tiny, one size, groove before the propodeum); *Camponotus* (Formicinae: acidopore)

In Baja: Oak, riparian and pine woodland in the north; large colonies in the trunks of living trees; dense trails; strong smell.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0006019, CASENT0106078).

Tapinoma



Tapinoma sessile, CASENT0005329



Tapinoma sessile, CASENT0005329

Tapinoma 1.5–3.2 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 1 · BCS 2

1. No upright scale: the petiole is flat and hidden under the front of the gaster
2. Only four gaster segments visible from above
3. Upper face of the propodeum much shorter than the rear face; no standing hairs on the mesosoma
4. Small and soft; brown to black, or (*T. melanocephalum*) dark with pale gaster and legs

Compare: *Linepithema*, *Forelius* (scale visible); *Brachymyrmex* (Formicinae: 9 antennal segments)

In Baja: *T. sessile*: under stones and wood, in most habitats except desert. *T. melanocephalum*, introduced (BCS). Crushed workers smell of rotten coconut.

Dolichoderinae at a glance

Genus	Recognise it by	Size	Peninsula taxa	Page
Dorymyrmex	cone on the propodeum	2.5–4 mm	14 (BC 12, BCS 10)	7
Forelius	standing hairs; groove before the propodeum	2–2.5 mm	4 (BC 4, BCS 3)	7
Linepithema	upright scale, no standing hairs	2.2–2.8 mm	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	8
Liometopum	even arch, velvety, several sizes	2.5–6 mm	3 (BC 3, BCS 0)	8
Tapinoma	no visible scale; 4 gaster segments from above	1.5–3.2 mm	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	9

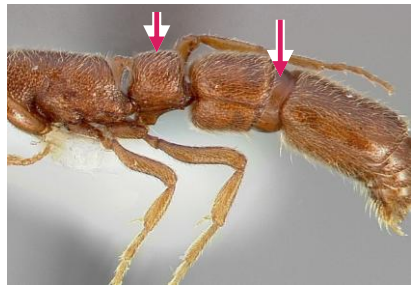
Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005329).

Dorylinae: key to the genera



1a Waist of two small segments. Last tergite small, without pegs. Workers of graded sizes; army ants in columns

→ ***Neivamyrmex*** p. 11



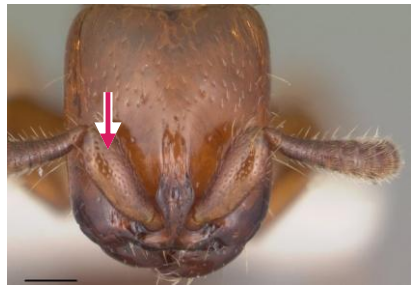
1b One waist segment, then a large segment set off from the rest of the gaster by a constriction. Last tergite flattened, edged with thick peg-like bristles

→ **step 2**



2a Antenna with 9 segments, the last one a large egg-shaped club. Body densely pitted and hairy, dull

→ ***Syscia*** p. 12

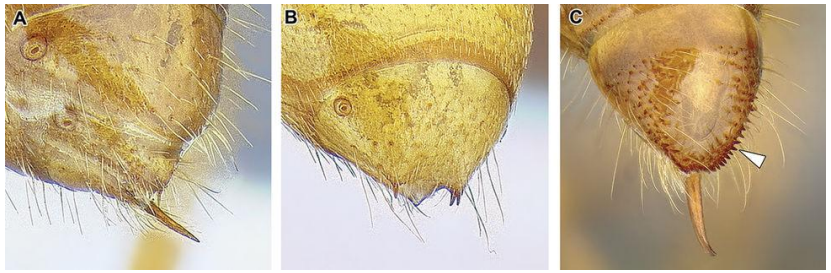


2b Antenna with 12 segments; scape short and thick. Body smooth and shiny

→ ***Acanthostichus*** p. 11

All three genera are blind or nearly blind and live mostly underground. Workers are found under stones, in sifted leaf litter and soil, and in night-time columns (*Neivamyrmex*). Males fly to light and are collected far more often than workers.

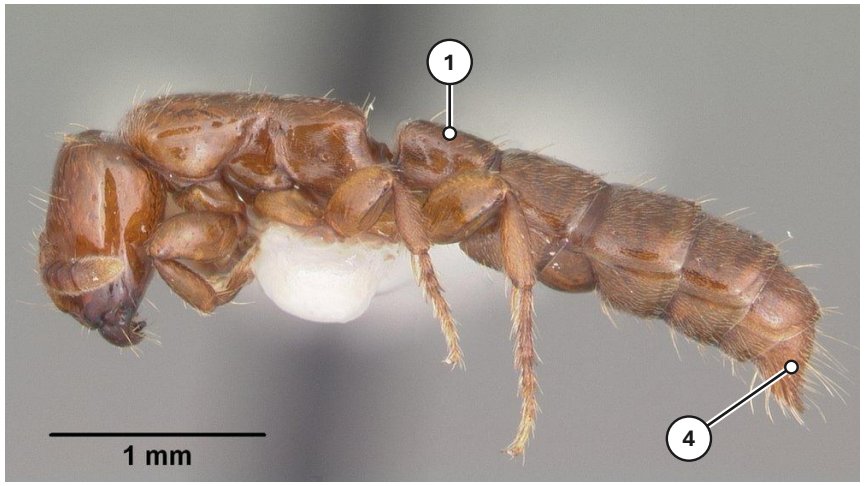
The last tergite (pygidium)



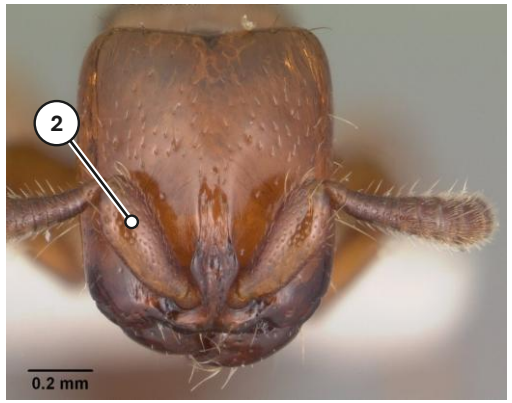
A, B: small and without pegs, as in *Neivamyrmex*. C: flattened and edged with peg-like bristles (arrow), as in *Syscia* and *Acanthostichus*. Photos: Borowiec 2016.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005330, CASENT0005317, CASENT0003311). Photos of the last tergite: Borowiec 2016, CC BY 4.0.

Acanthostichus · *Neivamyrmex*



Acanthostichus punctiscapus, CASENT0003311



Acanthostichus punctiscapus, CASENT0003311

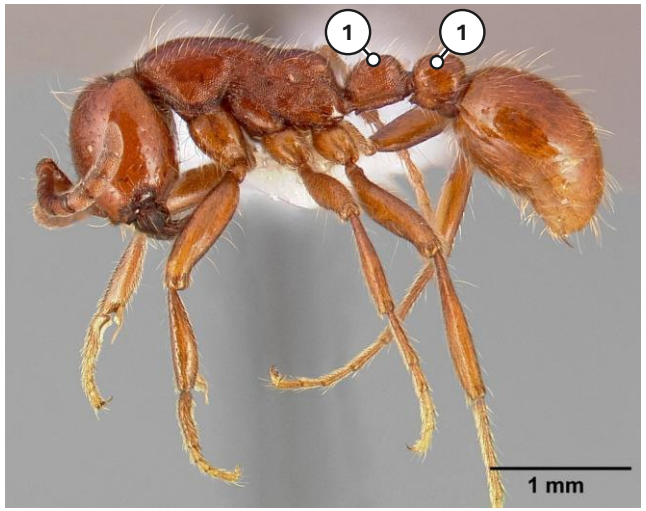
Acanthostichus 3–6 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 0 · BCS 1

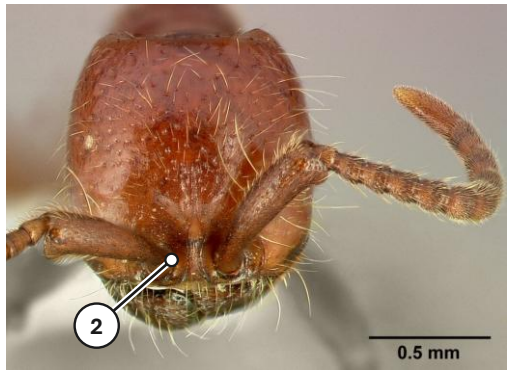
1. One large, block-like waist segment
2. Antenna with 12 segments; scape short and thick
3. Cylindrical, smooth and shiny, yellowish to red-brown; eyes very small; legs short
4. Last tergite large and flattened, edged with thick peg-like bristles

Compare: *Syscia* (9 antennal segments, dull and pitted); *Hypoponera* (frontal lobes cover the sockets)

In Baja: Lives underground; rarely collected, and known mostly from males that fly to light. Photo: *A. punctiscapus* (no photo of the Baja species, *A. davisi*).



Neivamyrmex californicus, CASENT0005330



Neivamyrmex californicus, CASENT0005330

Neivamyrmex 2.5–5 mm

Peninsula: 8 taxa · BC 7 · BCS 6

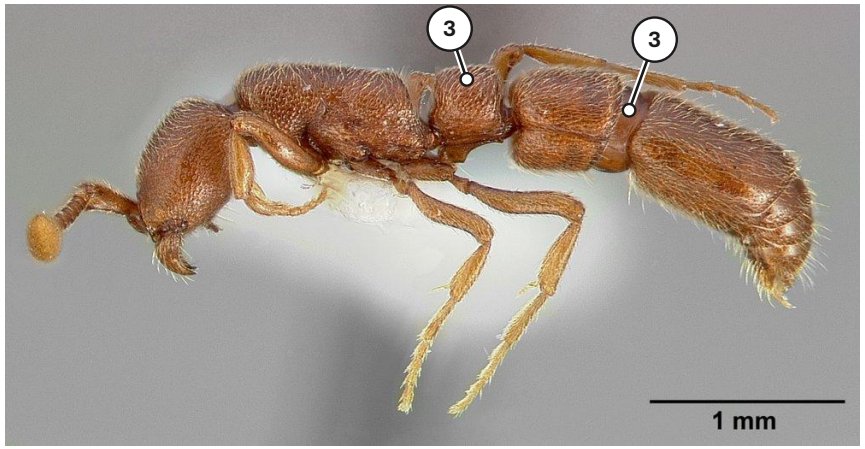
1. Waist of two segments
2. Antennal sockets fully exposed at the front of the head (no frontal lobes)
3. Eyes absent, or a single tiny facet
4. Workers of graded sizes, yellowish-red to dark brown; claws simple; last tergite small, without pegs

Compare: Myrmicinae such as *Solenopsis* (frontal lobes cover the sockets; eyes with several facets)

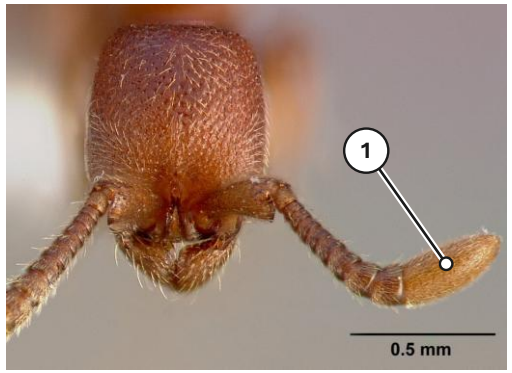
In Baja: Army ants: no permanent nest; forage in groups, mostly at night or below ground; prey mainly on other ants. Males come to light.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0003311, CASENT0005330).

Syscia



Syscia augustae, CASENT0005317



Syscia augustae, CASENT0005317

Syscia 2–3 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 1

1. Antenna with 9 segments; the last one is a large egg-shaped club
2. Eyes absent or reduced to a few facets; body cylindrical, densely pitted and hairy
3. One waist segment, then a large segment set off from the gaster by a constriction
4. Last tergite flattened, edged with peg-like bristles

Compare: *Acanthostichus* (12 antennal segments, smooth and shiny); *Hypoponera* (sockets covered, slender antennae)

In Baja: Soil and leaf litter; hunts other ants; seldom seen without sifting. Photo: *S. augustae* (the Baja species is *S. madrensis*).

Dorylinae at a glance

Genus	Recognise it by	Size	Peninsula taxa	Page
Acanthostichus	cylindrical, shiny, short thick scapes	3–6 mm	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	11
Neivamyrmex	army ants: two waist segments, eyes absent or tiny	2.5–5 mm	8 (BC 7, BCS 6)	11
Syscia	9 antennal segments, big club, pitted body	2–3 mm	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	12

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005317).

Formicinae: key to the genera (1 of 3)



1a Antenna with 9 or 10 segments. Very small ants

→ **step 2**



1b Antenna with 11 or 12 segments

→ **step 3**



2a 9 segments, no club. Lives in soil

→ ***Brachymyrmex*** p. 16



2b 9 or 10 segments, the last 3 or 4 forming a distinct club. Lives in twigs and stems of trees and shrubs

→ ***Myrmelachista*** p. 19

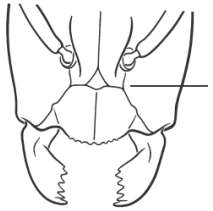


3a 11 segments. Scape over 1.5 times the head length; eyes large and bulging; long legs; yellow; 4–5 mm

→ ***Anoplolepis*** p. 16

3b 12 segments

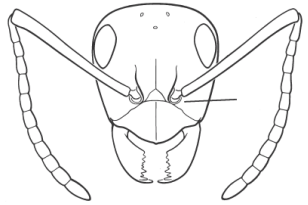
→ **step 4**



Camponotus

4a Antennal sockets well behind the rear edge of the clypeus. Mesosoma an even arch in profile. Acidopore often without a fringe

→ **step 5**



Formica

4b Sockets at the rear edge of the clypeus. Mesosoma with a dip before the propodeum. Acidopore with a fringe of hairs

→ **step 6**

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005338, CASENT0104126, CASENT0102965). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Formicinae: key to the genera (2 of 3)



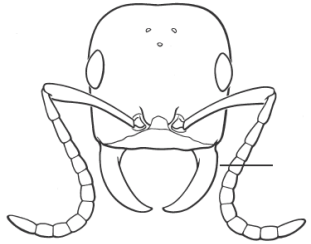
5a Major: front of the head cut off flat. Minor: sockets far apart, clypeus narrow. Two kinds of workers. Pupae naked

→ ***Colobopsis*** p. 17



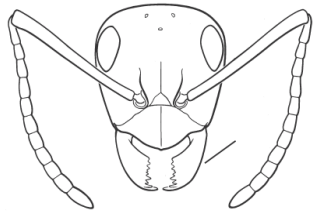
5b Major: head rounded in front. Minor: sockets closer together. Workers of many sizes. Pupae in cocoons

→ ***Camponotus*** p. 17



6a Mandibles long, sickle-shaped and pointed, without a row of teeth

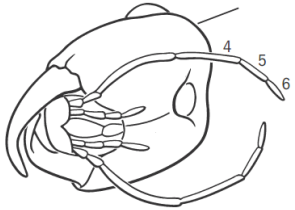
→ ***Polyergus*** p. 21



Formica

6b Mandibles triangular, with a row of teeth

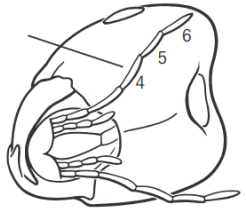
→ **step 7**



head from below

7a Maxillary palps very long: segment 4 much longer than 5 and 6 together. Long hairs under the head (psammophore)

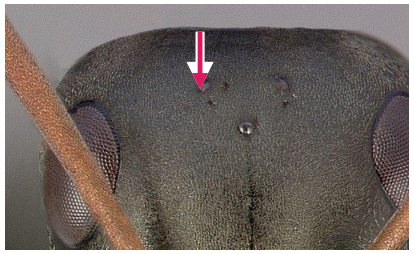
→ ***Myrmecocystus*** p. 19



Lasius, head from below

7b Palps of normal length or short. No psammophore

→ **step 8**



8a Three ocelli on top of the head. Mandible with 7 or more teeth. Propodeal spiracle oval to slit-like. 3.5–8 mm

→ ***Formica*** p. 18

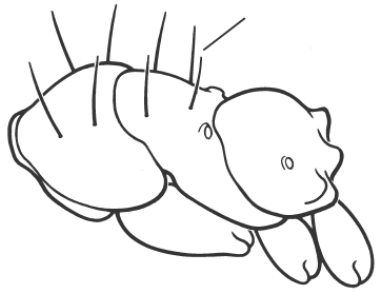


8b No ocelli, or very small ones. Propodeal spiracle round. Under 4.5 mm

→ **step 9**

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0065778, CASENT0005341, CASENT0005361, CASENT0005401). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

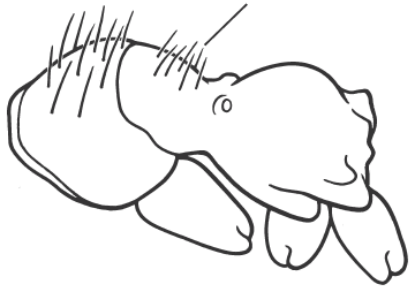
Formicinae: key to the genera (3 of 3)



Nylanderia

9a Coarse dark hairs standing in pairs on head and mesosoma

→ **step 10**



Prenolepis

9b Hairs slender, not in pairs

→ **step 11**



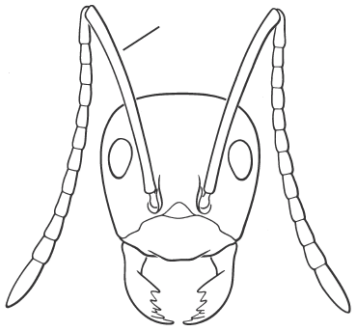
10a Scape extremely long: more than half of it passes the back of the head; no standing hairs on it. Mandible with 5 teeth

→ ***Paratrechina*** p. 20



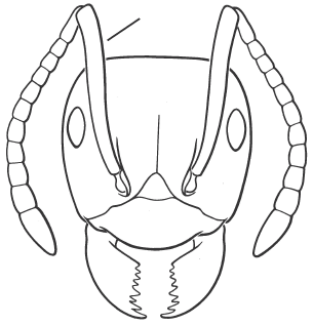
10b Scape shorter, usually with standing hairs. Mandible with 6 or 7 teeth

→ ***Nylanderia*** p. 20



11a Scape long: it passes the back of the head by about half its length. Mesosoma pinched in the middle, seen from above. Mandible with 6 teeth

→ ***Prenolepis*** p. 21

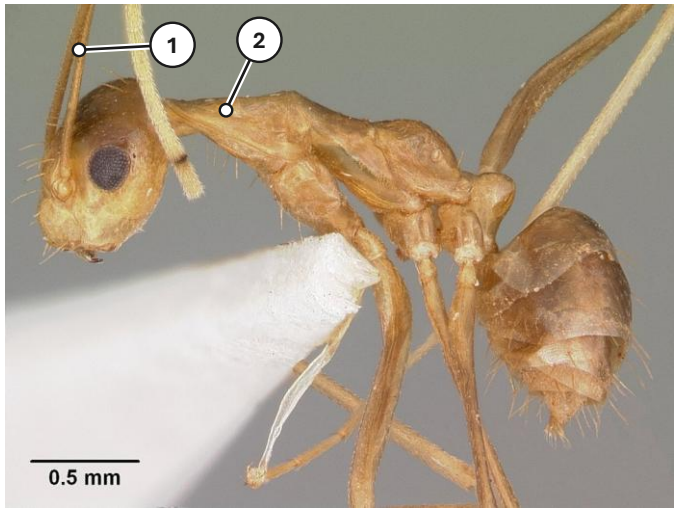


11b Scape short: it passes the back of the head by less than a third of its length. Mesosoma not pinched. Mandible with 7 or more teeth

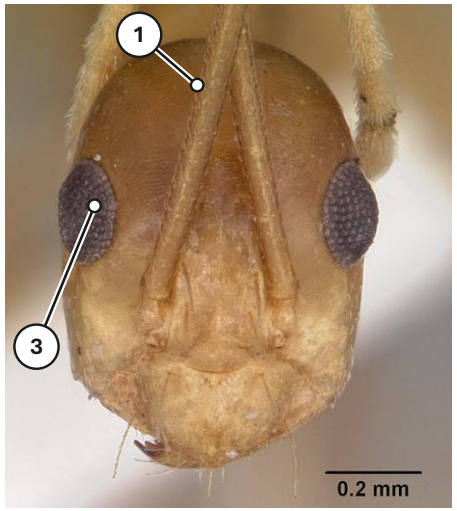
→ ***Lasius*** p. 18

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005425, CASENT0102819). Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Anoplolepis · *Brachymyrmex*



Anoplolepis gracilipes, CASENT0102965



Anoplolepis gracilipes, CASENT0102965

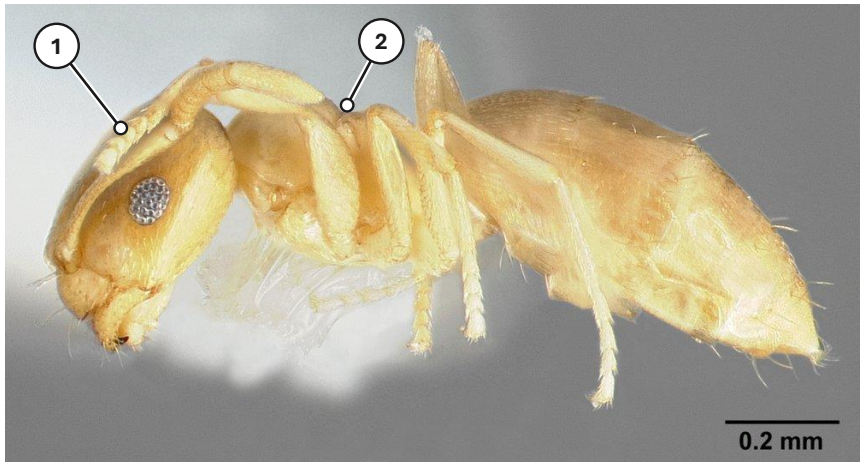
Anoplolepis 4–5 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 0 · BCS 1

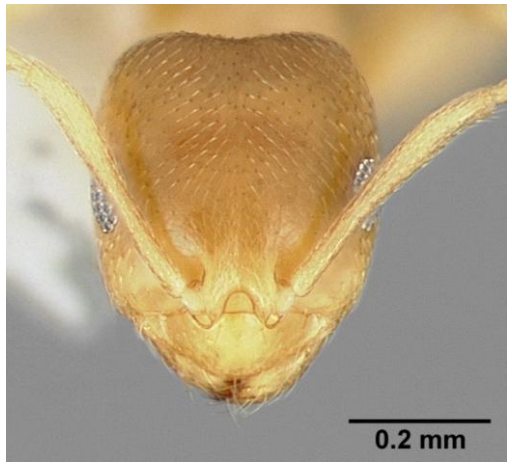
1. Antenna with 11 segments, without a club; scape very long, over 1.5 times the head length
2. Mesosoma long and slender, drawn out in front like a neck; legs very long
3. Eyes large, bulging beyond the outline of the head
4. Yellow to orange-brown; few, thin standing hairs, not in pairs

Compare: *Paratrechina longicornis* (12 segments, 2.5 mm, dark, thick paired hairs); *Myrmecocystus* (12 segments, long palps)

In Baja: *A. gracilipes* (yellow crazy ant), introduced and invasive (BCS). Please report any new record.



Brachymyrmex depilis, CASENT0005338



Brachymyrmex depilis, CASENT0005338

Brachymyrmex 1.5–2.5 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 2 · BCS 1

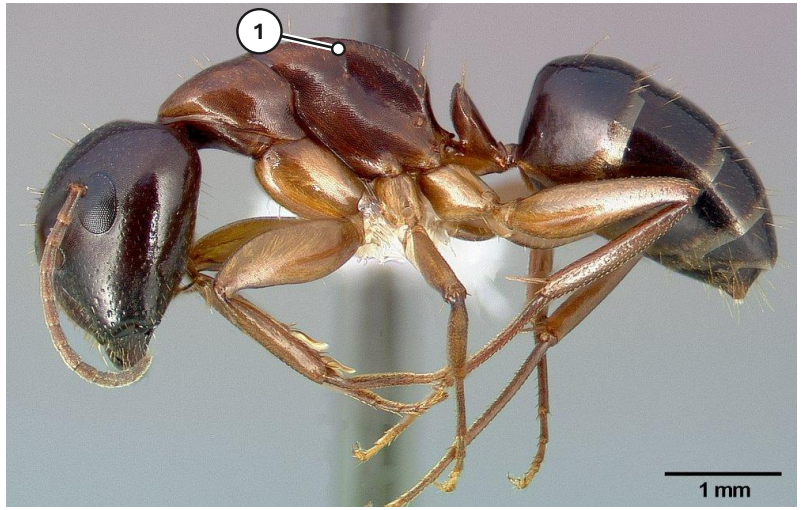
1. Antenna with 9 segments and no club
2. Mesosoma short and compact; body soft
3. Tiny; pale yellow (*B. depilis*) to dark brown

Compare: *Tapinoma* (12 segments; slit, no acidopore); *Nylanderia* (12 segments, coarse hairs); *Myrmelachista* (club)

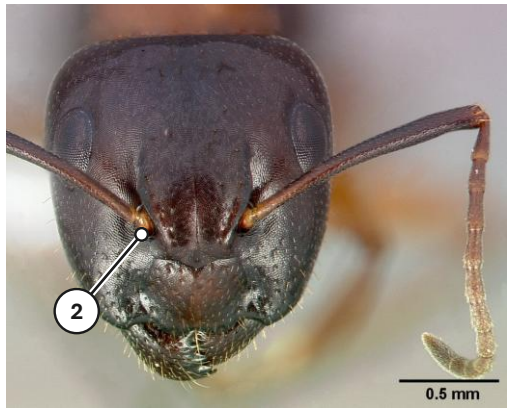
In Baja: Nests in soil; tends root aphids. Easy to overlook: use a sifter or baits.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0102965, CASENT0005338).

Camponotus · *Colobopsis*



Camponotus clarithorax, CASENT0005341



Camponotus clarithorax, CASENT0005341

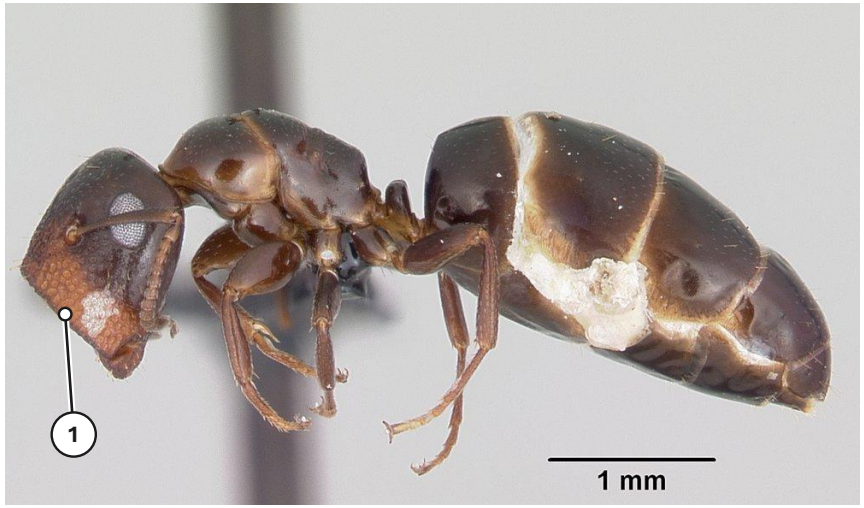
Camponotus 4–13 mm

Peninsula: 32 taxa · BC 28 · BCS 12 · 2 endemic

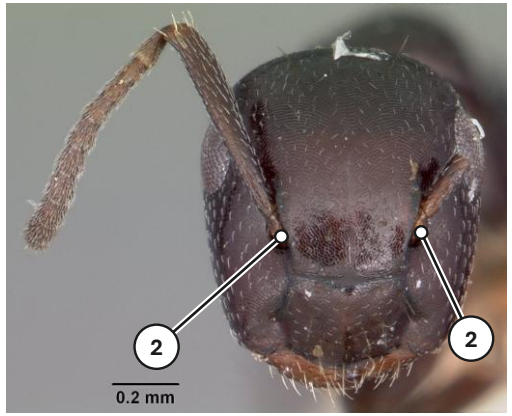
1. Mesosoma an even arch in profile, without a dip
2. Antennal sockets set well behind the rear edge of the clypeus
3. Workers of many sizes, from small minors to large-headed majors
4. Acidopore often without a fringe of hairs

Compare: *Colobopsis* (majors with a flat-fronted head); *Formica* (ocelli; dip in the mesosoma); *Liometopum* (slit, velvety)

In Baja: The most species-rich formicine genus here. Soil, dead wood, twigs; most active at dusk and at night.



Colobopsis papago, major, CASENT0065778



Colobopsis papago, minor, CASENT0104697

Colobopsis 3–6 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 0 · BCS 1

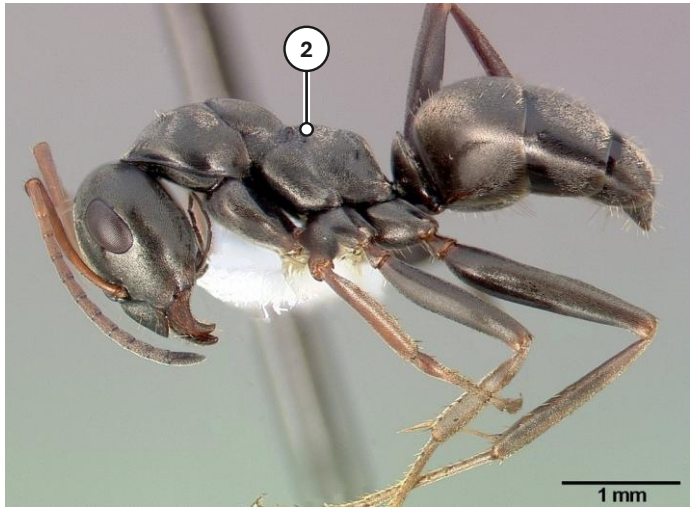
1. Major: front of the head cut off flat, like a cork (it plugs the nest entrance)
2. Minor: antennal sockets far apart, 0.36–0.47 of the head width (0.22–0.35 in *Camponotus*); clypeus narrow, almost square
3. Only two kinds of workers, minors and majors
4. Pupae naked, without cocoons (in cocoons in *Camponotus*)

Compare: *Camponotus* (majors not flat-fronted; minors with sockets closer together). *C. yogi* and *C. laevigatus* were once placed in *Colobopsis*

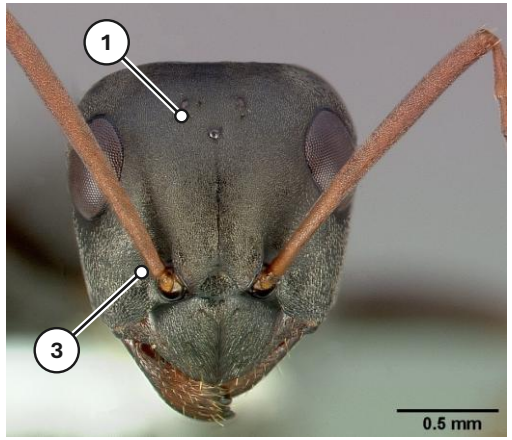
In Baja: *C. papago*: nests in twigs and branches of trees and shrubs (BCS). Photos: a major from the side, the head of a minor.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005341, CASENT0065778, CASENT0104697).

Formica · *Lasius*



Formica argentea, CASENT0005361



Formica argentea, CASENT0005361

Formica 3.5–8 mm

Peninsula: 13 taxa · BC 13 · BCS 0

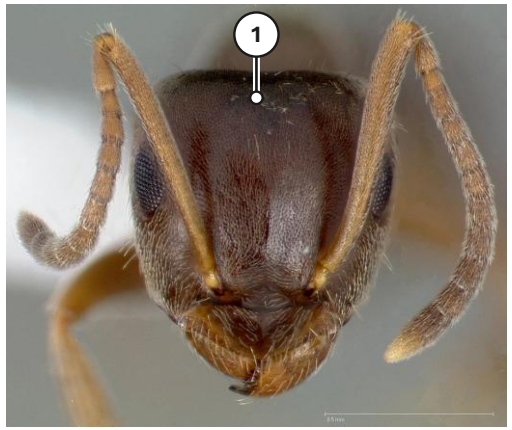
1. Three ocelli on top of the head
2. Mesosoma with a clear dip between mesonotum and propodeum
3. Antennal sockets touch the rear edge of the clypeus
4. Mandible with 7 or more teeth; propodeal spiracle oval to slit-like

Compare: *Camponotus* (even arch, sockets behind the clypeus); *Lasius* (smaller, no ocelli); *Myrmecocystus* (long palps)

In Baja: Mountains and the north-west: chaparral, oak and pine woodland. Not known from BCS.



Lasius americanus, CASENT0005401



Lasius americanus, CASENT0005401

Lasius 2.5–4.5 mm

Peninsula: 6 taxa · BC 6 · BCS 0

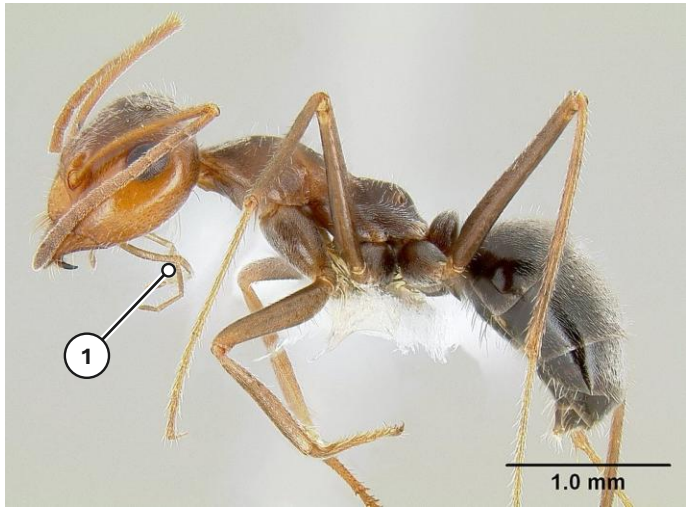
1. No ocelli, or very small ones
2. Small and compact; mesosoma with a dip before the propodeum
3. Scape short: it passes the back of the head by less than a third of its length
4. Propodeal spiracle round; mandible with 7 or more teeth; hairs fine, not in pairs

Compare: *Formica* (larger, ocelli); *Prenolepis* (mesosoma pinched, long scape); *Nylanderia* (coarse paired hairs)

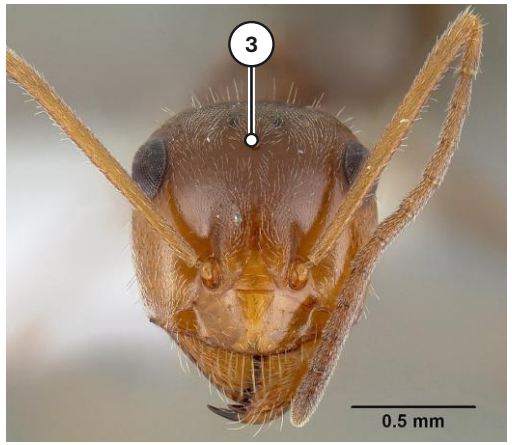
In Baja: Northern mountains: cool sites, in soil and under stones; tends root aphids. Not known from BCS.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005361, CASENT0005401).

Myrmecocystus · *Myrmelachista*



Myrmecocystus flaviceps, CASENT0106055



Myrmecocystus flaviceps, CASENT0106055

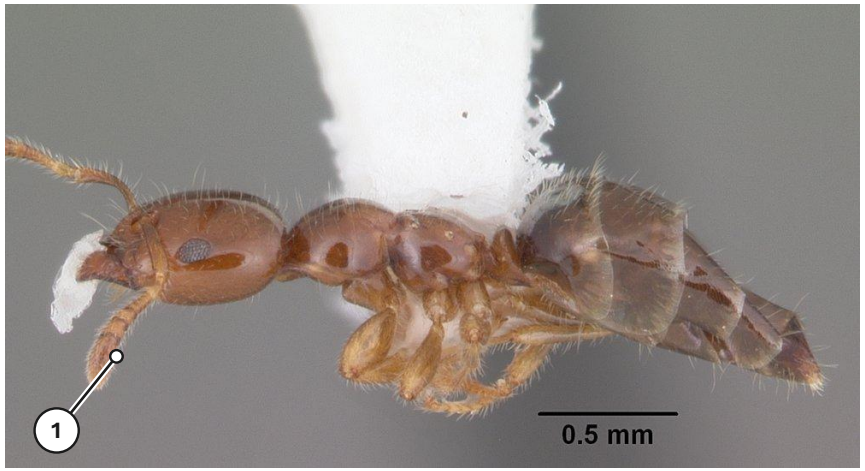
Myrmecocystus 3–9 mm

Peninsula: 25 taxa · BC 22 · BCS 12 · 7 endemic

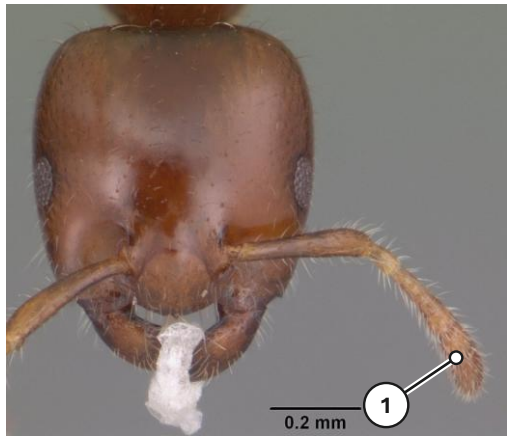
1. Maxillary palps very long, hanging under the head
2. Long hairs under the head (psammophore)
3. Ocelli present; long legs

Compare: *Formica* (short palps); *Dorymyrmex* (cone on propodeum, slit); pale *Camponotus* at night (sockets behind the clypeus)

In Baja: Honeypot ants: deserts and dry scrub of the whole peninsula; crater nests; some species forage only at night.



Myrmelachista ramulorum, CASENT0104126



Myrmelachista ramulorum, CASENT0104126

Myrmelachista 1.5–3 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 0 · BCS 1

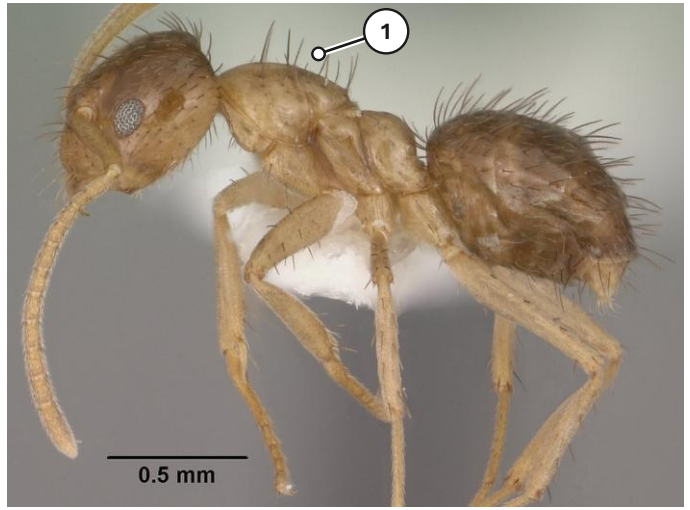
1. Antenna with 9 or 10 segments, the last 3 or 4 forming a distinct club
2. Small, smooth and shiny, with short scapes
3. Lives only on trees and shrubs: nests in twigs and stems, also inside live stems

Compare: *Brachymyrmex* (9 segments, no club, lives in soil)

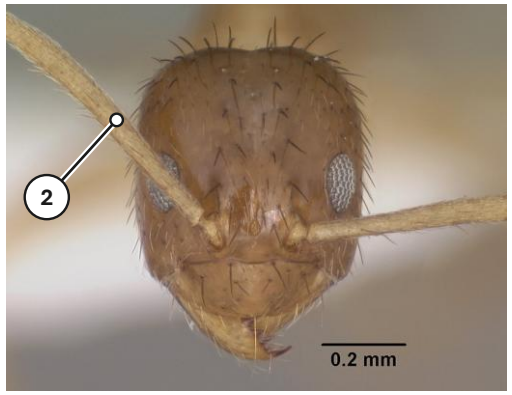
In Baja: One unnamed form listed from BCS by Johnson & Ward. Photo: *M. ramulorum*, a Caribbean species (9 segments, club of 3); *M. mexicana* of southern Mexico has 10.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0106055, CASENT0104126).

Nylanderia · *Paratrechina*



Nylanderia bruesii, CASENT0102819



Nylanderia bruesii, CASENT0102819

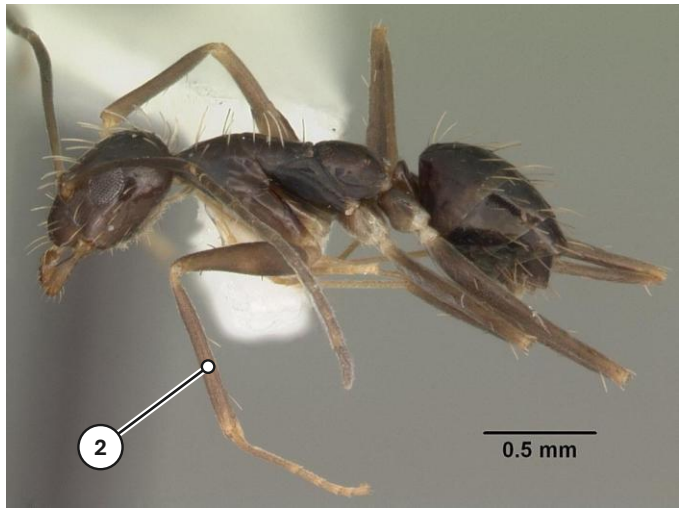
Nylanderia 2–3 mm

Peninsula: 8 taxa · BC 4 · BCS 5 · 2 endemic

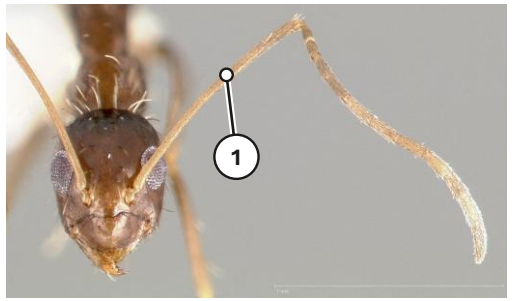
1. Coarse dark hairs standing in pairs on head, mesosoma and gaster
2. Scape usually with standing hairs; it passes the back of the head by about a third
3. Small, compact; yellow to dark brown; mandible with 6 or 7 teeth

Compare: *Paratrechina* (much longer scape without standing hairs); *Prenolepis*; *Lasius* (hairs fine)

In Baja: Soil and leaf litter, under stones; from desert washes to gardens.



Paratrechina longicornis, CASENT0104236



Paratrechina longicornis, CASENT0005425

Paratrechina 2.3–3 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 1

1. Scape extremely long: more than half of it passes the back of the head
2. Legs very long; body slender, dark, with a faint bluish sheen
3. Coarse paired hairs as in *Nylanderia*, but none standing on the scape; mandible with 5 teeth

Compare: *Nylanderia* (shorter scape); *Anoplolepis* (11 antennal segments, yellow)

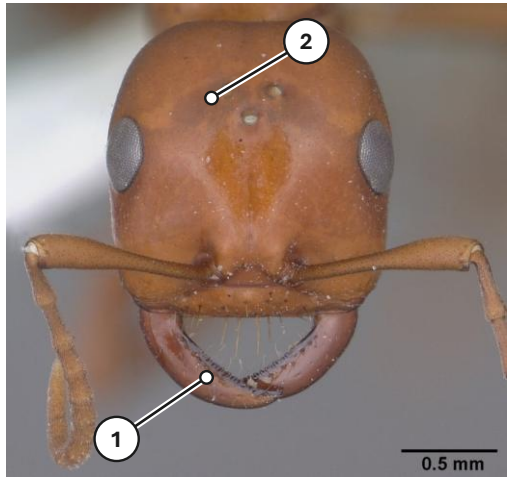
In Baja: *P. longicornis* (longhorn crazy ant), introduced: towns, ports and buildings. Runs in an erratic zigzag.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0102819, CASENT0104236, CASENT0005425).

Polyergus · *Prenolepis*



Polyergus breviceps, CASENT0102822



Polyergus breviceps, CASENT0102822

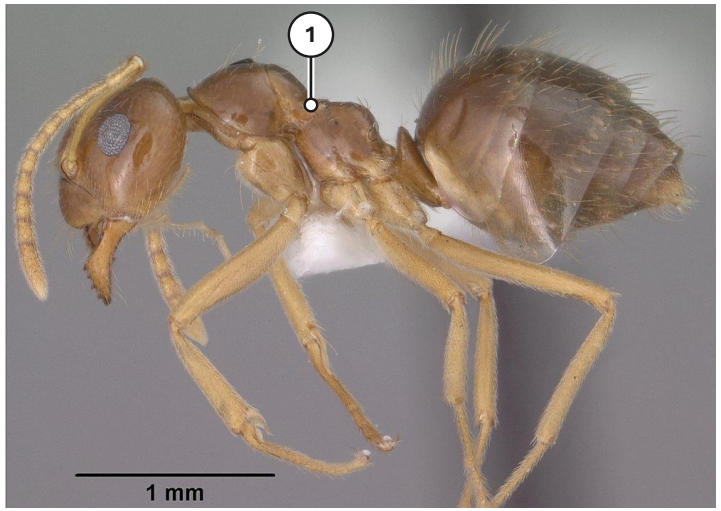
Polyergus 5–7 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 0

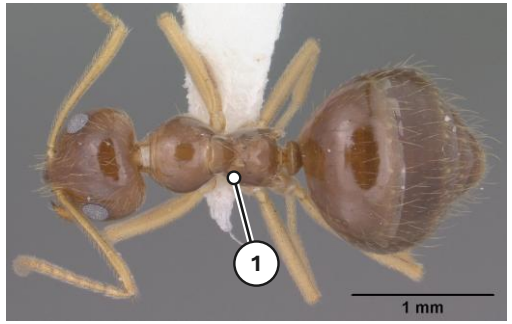
1. Mandibles sickle-shaped and pointed, without a row of teeth
2. Ocelli present
3. Red to red-brown, rather shiny

Compare: *Formica*, its host (triangular mandibles with a row of teeth)

In Baja: *P. vinosus*: social parasite of *Formica*; raids its nests for brood; found in mixed nests or in raiding columns. Photo filed on AntWeb as *P. breviceps*.



Prenolepis imparis, CASENT0102823



Prenolepis imparis, CASENT0102823

Prenolepis 3–4 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 1

1. Mesosoma pinched in the middle: an hourglass seen from above
2. Scape long, without standing hairs: it passes the back of the head by about half its length
3. Hairs slender, not coarse and not in pairs; body shiny; mandible with 6 teeth
4. Gaster large, often swollen with stored food

Compare: *Lasius* (mesosoma not pinched, short scape); *Nylanderia* (coarse paired hairs, hairy scape)

In Baja: *P. imparis* (winter ant): moist, shaded sites; nests deep in the soil; does not forage in the heat of summer.

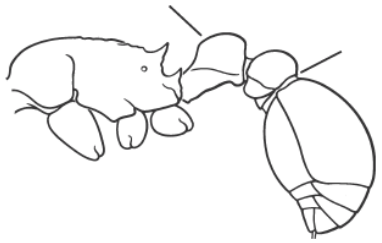
Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0102822, CASENT0102823).

Myrmicinae: key to the genera (1 of 4)



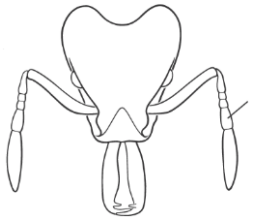
1a Postpetiole attached to the **upper** surface of the gaster. Petiole flat, without a node. Gaster heart-shaped from above

→ ***Crematogaster*** p. 28



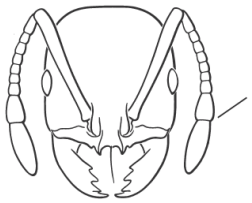
1b Postpetiole attached to the front of the gaster. Petiole with a node

→ **step 2**



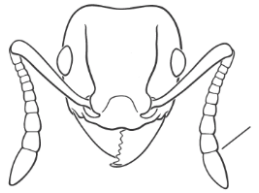
2a Antenna with 6 segments (rarely 4). Head pear-shaped

→ ***Strumigenys*** p. 32



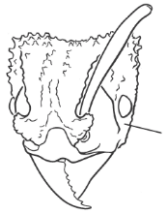
2b Antenna with 10 segments, club of 2. Propodeum without spines

→ ***Solenopsis*** p. 31



2c Antenna with 11 or 12 segments

→ **step 3**



head from the side

3a A slanting ridge on the side of the head, from the mandible to above the eye. Body dull, with tubercles or spines. Antenna with 11 segments (fungus growers)

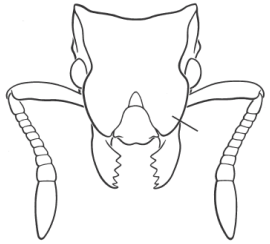
→ **step 4**



head from the side

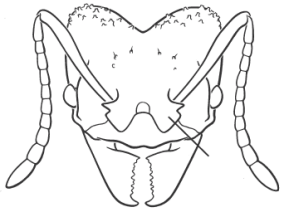
3b No such ridge. Body without tubercles (spines or teeth may be present)

→ **step 6**



4a Frontal lobes very wide, covering the sides of the head in front view. Hairs flat, pressed to the body; no standing hairs

→ ***Cyphomyrmex*** p. 28



Acromyrmex

4b Frontal lobes not so wide. Standing or curved hairs present

→ **step 5**

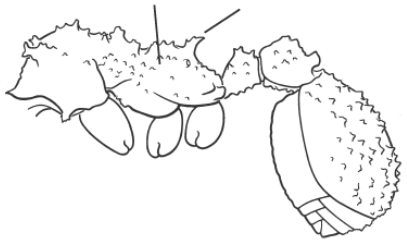
Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Myrmicinae: key to the genera (2 of 4)



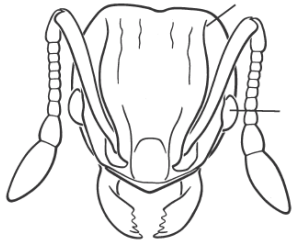
5a Long, sharp spines on the mesosoma. Tubercles mainly on top of the head and mesosoma. Workers of several sizes

→ ***Acromyrmex*** p. 26



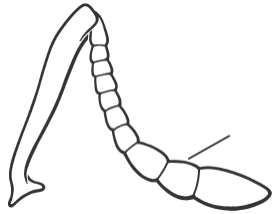
5b Spines short and blunt. Small tubercles all over head and mesosoma. Workers of one size

→ ***Trachymyrmex*** p. 34



6a Antennal club of 2 segments (antenna with 11). Long ridges on the face; long propodeal spines; petiole node square. About 1.5 mm, golden (little fire ant)

→ ***Allomerus*** p. 26



club of 3

6b Club of 3 or 4 segments, or no distinct club

→ **step 7**



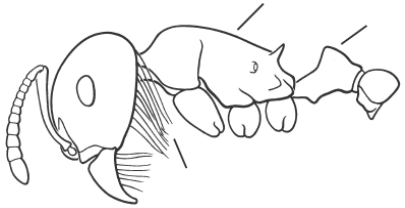
7a Spur of the hind tibia comb-like (magnification 50× or more). 4 mm or longer; antenna with 12 segments

→ **step 8**



7b Spur simple, or absent

→ **step 9**



8a Psammophore usually present. Mesosoma evenly curved, no dip before the propodeum. Deserts and open ground

→ ***Pogonomyrmex*** p. 31

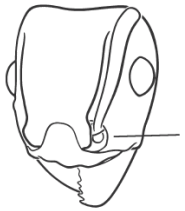


8b No psammophore. A dip before the propodeum; long propodeal spines. Mountains

→ ***Myrmica*** p. 30

Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

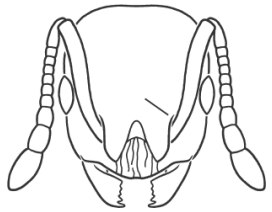
Myrmicinae: key to the genera (3 of 4)



head from the side

9a Side of the clypeus raised into a sharp ridge in front of each antennal socket. Coarse ridges on the head

→ ***Tetramorium*** p. 33



Temnothorax

9b No such ridge

→ **step 10**



10a Petiole a low block, without stalk or raised node. Propodeum with two pairs of teeth. A sharp ridge along the underside of the head

→ ***Myrmecina*** p. 29



10b Petiole with a stalk and a raised node. Propodeum with one pair of teeth or spines, or none

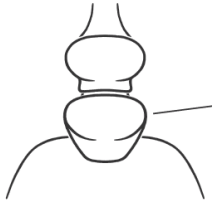
→ **step 11**



waist from above

11a No standing hairs on head and mesosoma. Postpetiole swollen: from above much wider than the petiole

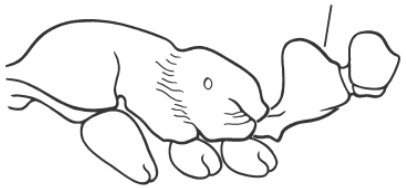
→ ***Cardiocondyla*** p. 27



waist from above

11b Standing hairs present. Postpetiole not swollen

→ **step 12**



12a Propodeum rounded, without spines or teeth. Middle of the clypeus raised between two ridges. Club of 3. Smooth and shiny, 1.5–2.5 mm

→ ***Monomorium*** p. 29

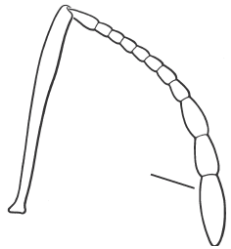


12b Propodeum with teeth or spines; or, if it is rounded, the ant is over 3 mm long

→ **step 13**

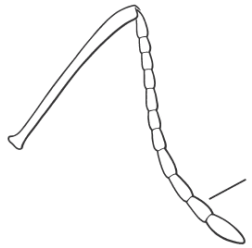
Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Myrmicinae: key to the genera (4 of 4)



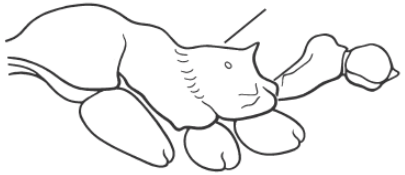
13a Antenna with a distinct club of 3 segments

→ **step 14**



13b Club of 4 segments, or no distinct club

→ **step 15**



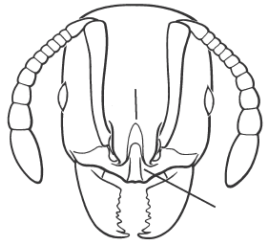
14a Promesonotum domed, clearly higher than the propodeum. Majors with a very large head in the same nest

→ ***Pheidole*** p. 30



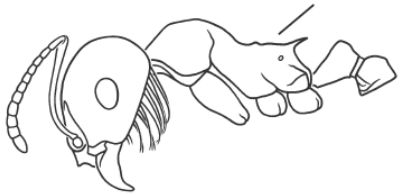
14b Mesosoma outline flat to weakly convex, without a step. Workers all alike

→ ***Temnothorax*** p. 33



15a Under 4 mm. Eyes small. Club of 4. Frontal lobes close together, with a narrow strip of clypeus between them; clypeus with two fine ridges

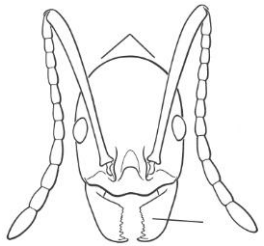
→ ***Stenamma*** p. 32



Veromessor

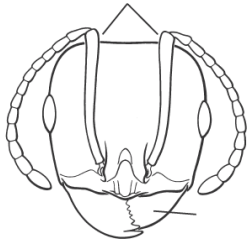
15b 3.5–9 mm. Eyes of normal size. No distinct club

→ **step 16**



16a Head longer than wide, often narrowed behind. Mandible slender, triangular. No psammophore

→ ***Aphaenogaster*** p. 27

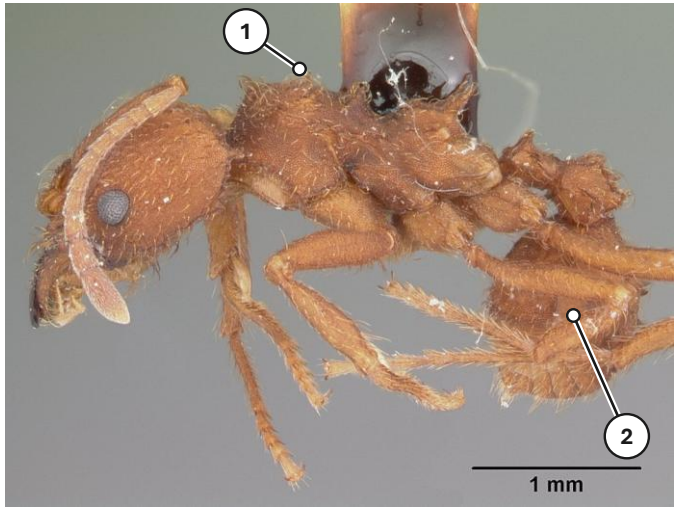


16b Head broad and square. Mandible short and thick, its outer edge strongly curved. Psammophore usually present

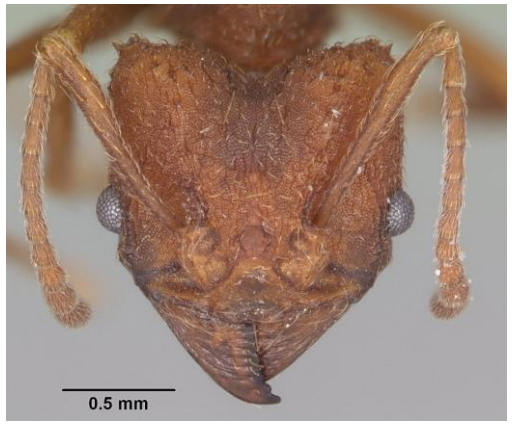
→ ***Veromessor*** p. 34

Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Acromyrmex · *Allomerus*



Acromyrmex versicolor, CASENT0104036



Acromyrmex versicolor, CASENT0104036

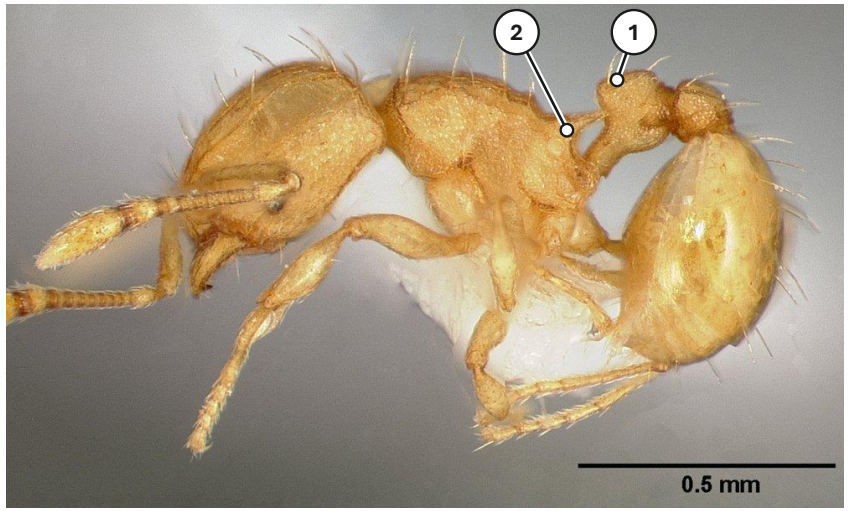
Acromyrmex 3–6 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 1

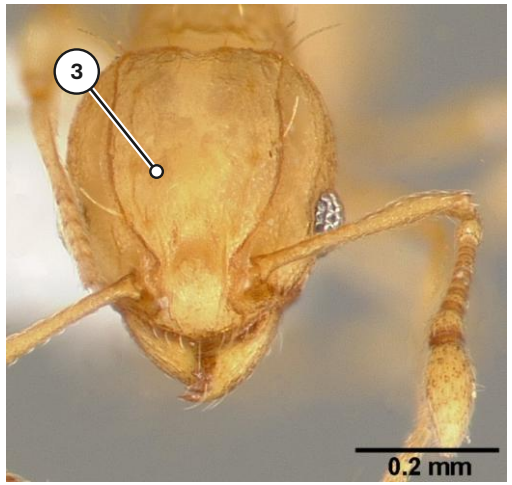
1. Several pairs of long, sharp spines on the mesosoma
2. Gaster covered with small tubercles; body dull and rough
3. Antenna with 11 segments, without a clear club
4. Workers of several sizes

Compare: *Trachymyrmex* (short blunt spines, one worker size); *Cyphomyrmex* (no spines)

In Baja: *A. versicolor* (desert leaf-cutter): cuts leaves and flowers for its fungus garden; crater nests in desert soil.



Allomerus auropunctatus, CASENT0005665



Allomerus auropunctatus, CASENT0005665

Allomerus 1.2–1.5 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 0 · BCS 1

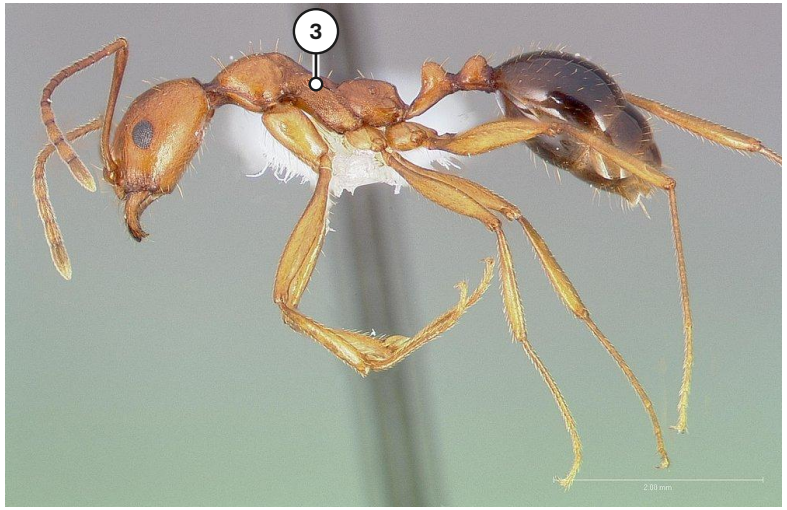
1. Petiole node square in profile, on a stalk
2. Long propodeal spines
3. Antenna with 11 segments and a club of 2; long ridges on the face, with a groove for the antenna
4. Eyes of normal size, with more than 10 facets

Compare: Thief ants, *Solenopsis* (10 segments, no spines, minute eyes); *Tetramorium*, *Temnothorax* (club of 3)

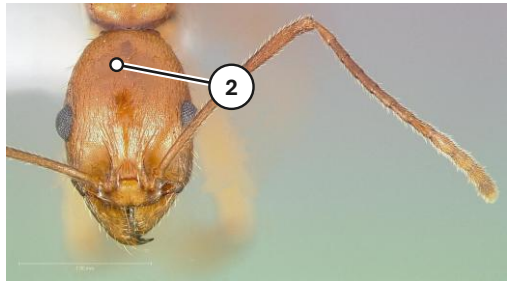
In Baja: *A. auropunctatus* (little fire ant), introduced and invasive: one record (BCS). Until recently *Wasmannia auropunctata*. Please report any new record.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0104036, CASENT0005665).

Aphaenogaster · *Cardiocondyla*



Aphaenogaster boulderensis, CASENT0005722



Aphaenogaster boulderensis, CASENT0005722

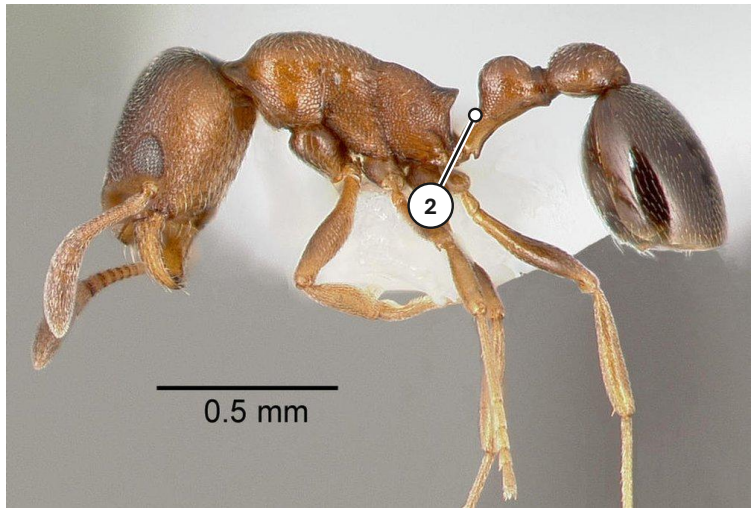
Aphaenogaster 3.5–7 mm

Peninsula: 5 taxa · BC 3 · BCS 5 · 2 endemic

1. Slender, with long legs and long antennae
2. Head clearly longer than wide, often narrowed behind; mandible slender
3. Promesonotum raised, then a dip before the lower propodeum
4. Antenna with 12 segments, without a distinct club; no psammophore; workers all alike

Compare: *Veromessor* (broad square head, thick mandibles, psammophore); *Pheidole* minors (smaller, club of 3)

In Baja: Soil nests, often under stones. *A. megommata*: pale, large-eyed, forages at night in the desert.



Cardiocondyla mauritanica, CASENT0005678



Cardiocondyla mauritanica, CASENT0005678

Cardiocondyla 1.5–2.5 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 1 · BCS 1

1. Postpetiole swollen: seen from above it is much wider than the petiole
2. Petiole with a long stalk
3. No standing hairs on head and mesosoma
4. Tiny; propodeum with short teeth

Compare: *Temnothorax* (standing hairs, postpetiole not swollen); *Monomorium* (no propodeal teeth)

In Baja: Introduced tramp species: towns, roadsides, beaches and other disturbed open ground.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005722, CASENT0005678).

Crematogaster · *Cyphomyrmex*



Crematogaster coarctata, CASENT0005667



Crematogaster coarctata, CASENT0005667

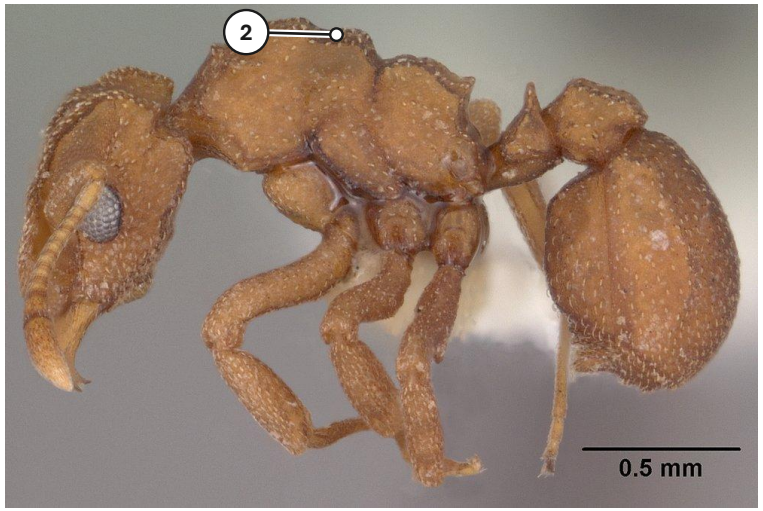
Crematogaster 2.5–5 mm

Peninsula: 12 taxa · BC 11 · BCS 7 · 2 endemic

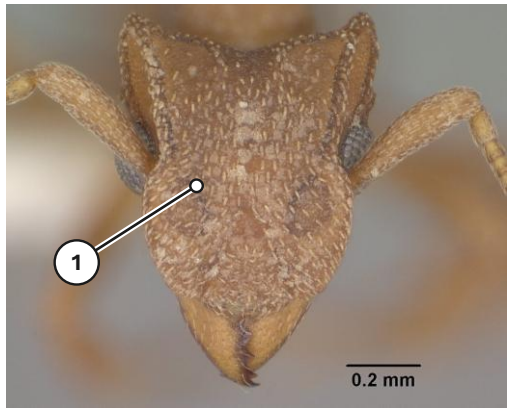
1. Postpetiole attached to the upper surface of the gaster
2. Gaster heart-shaped from above, pointed, often raised over the body
3. Petiole flat, without a node
4. Antenna with 11 segments

Compare: No other Baja genus has the postpetiole attached this way

In Baja: Abundant: dead wood, stems, cacti, under stones. Raises the gaster and smears venom when disturbed.



Cyphomyrmex wheeleri, CASENT0102834



Cyphomyrmex wheeleri, CASENT0102834

Cyphomyrmex 2–3 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 2 · BCS 1 · 1 endemic

1. Frontal lobes very wide, covering the sides of the face; deep grooves for the antennae
2. Mesosoma with blunt humps, without spines
3. Hairs flat and scale-like, pressed to the body; no standing hairs; body dull
4. Antenna with 11 segments; gaster without tubercles

Compare: *Trachymyrmex* (short spines; tubercles with curved hairs)

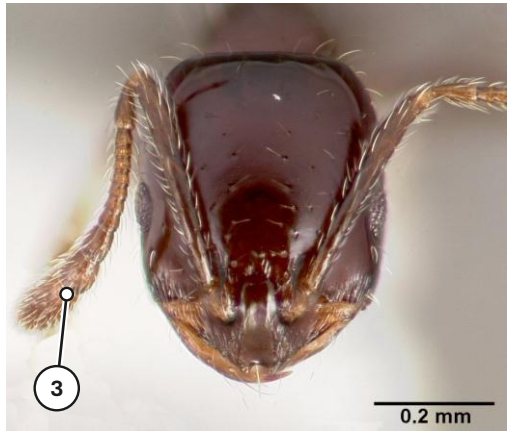
In Baja: Small fungus grower: nests in soil, often under stones; grows its fungus on insect droppings and plant debris.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005667, CASENT0102834).

Monomorium · *Myrmecina*



Monomorium ergatogyna, CASENT0005781



Monomorium ergatogyna, CASENT0005781

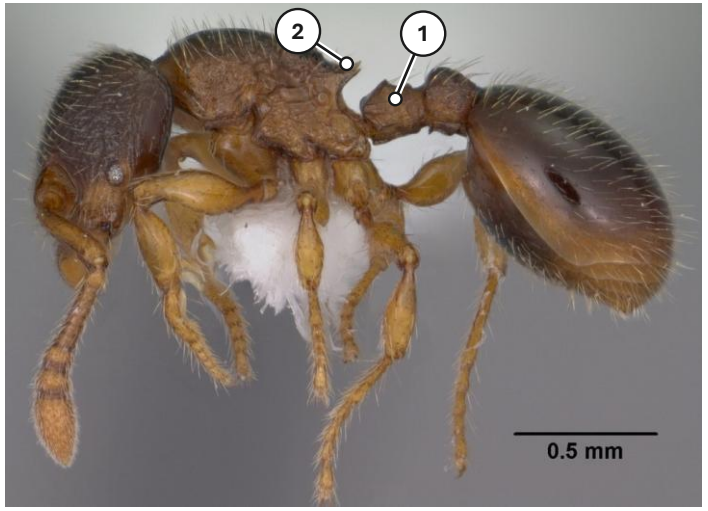
Monomorium 1.5–2.5 mm

Peninsula: 5 taxa · BC 4 · BCS 2 · 1 endemic

1. Propodeum rounded, without spines or teeth
2. Body smooth and shiny in most species
3. Antenna with 12 segments and a club of 3
4. Middle of the clypeus raised, edged by two ridges

Compare: *Solenopsis* (10 segments, club of 2); *Temnothorax* and *Pheidole* minors (propodeal teeth); *Cardiocondyla*

In Baja: *M. ergatogyna* nests in soil and is common under stones. *M. pharaonis* and *M. floricola* are introduced.



Myrmecina americana, CASENT0102853



Myrmecina americana, CASENT0102853

Myrmecina 2.5–3.5 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 0

1. Petiole a low block, without a stalk and without a raised node
2. Propodeum with two pairs of teeth: long spines and a small pair in front
3. A sharp ridge along the underside of the head, from the mandible to the back corner
4. Dark, stocky and coarsely grooved; eyes small

Compare: *Tetramorium* (petiole with a node; ridge on the clypeus); *Stenamma* (petiole with a long stalk)

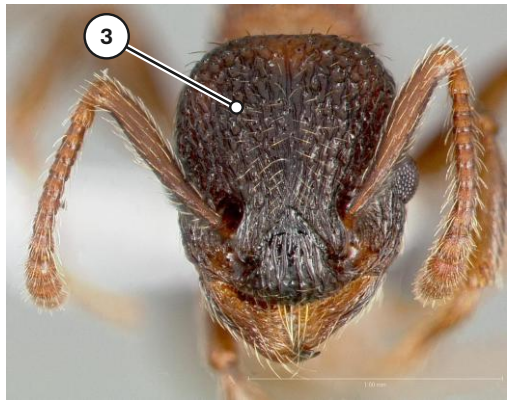
In Baja: *M. americana*: soil, leaf litter and rotten wood (BC); curls up when disturbed.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005781, CASENT0102853).

Myrmica · *Pheidole*



Myrmica tahoensis, CASENT0005705



Myrmica tahoensis, CASENT0005705

Myrmica 4–5.5 mm

Peninsula: 1 taxon · BC 1 · BCS 1

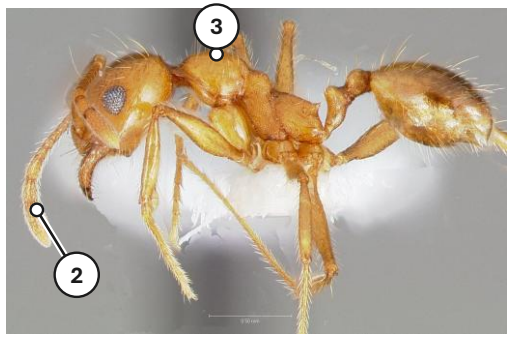
1. Spurs of the middle and hind tibiae comb-like (use high magnification)
2. Long propodeal spines; a dip before the propodeum
3. Head and mesosoma with coarse ridges; no psammophore

Compare: *Pogonomyrmex* (psammophore, no dip); *Aphaenogaster* (slender, simple spurs); *Tetramorium* (smaller)

In Baja: *M. tahoensis*: high mountains (conifer forest, meadows); nests in soil and under stones.



Pheidole vistana, major, CASENT0005740



Pheidole hyatti, minor, CASENT0005739

Pheidole minors 1.5–3 mm, majors 2.5–5 mm

Peninsula: 37 taxa · BC 23 · BCS 28 · 12 endemic

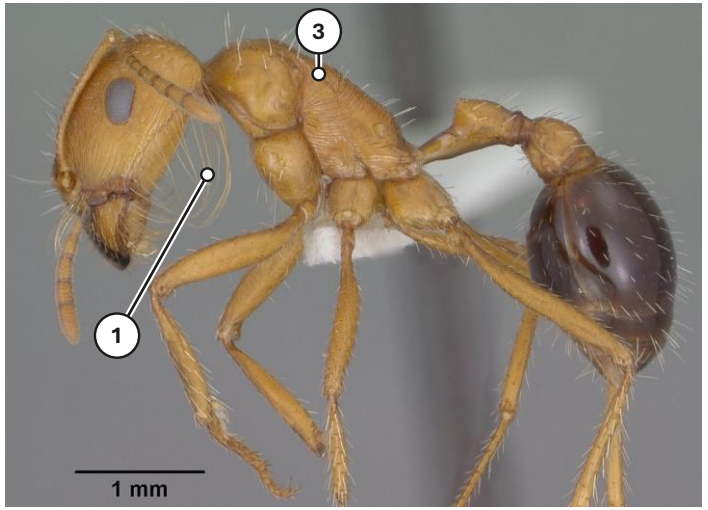
1. Two kinds of workers: majors with a huge head, and small minors
2. Antenna with 12 segments and a club of 3
3. Promesonotum high and domed; propodeum lower, usually with small spines

Compare: A lone minor is easily taken for *Temnothorax* (flat outline), *Monomorium* (no spines) or *Aphaenogaster* (no club)

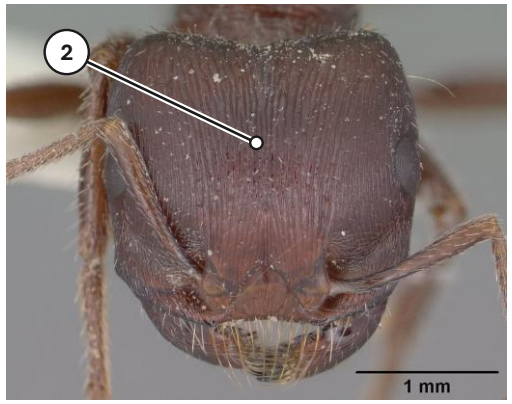
In Baja: The most species-rich genus of the peninsula; open, dry ground; seed harvesters and scavengers; comes to baits. Photos: major and minor.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005705, CASENT0005740, CASENT0005739).

Pogonomyrmex · *Solenopsis*



Pogonomyrmex californicus, CASENT0102895



Pogonomyrmex rugosus, CASENT0102896

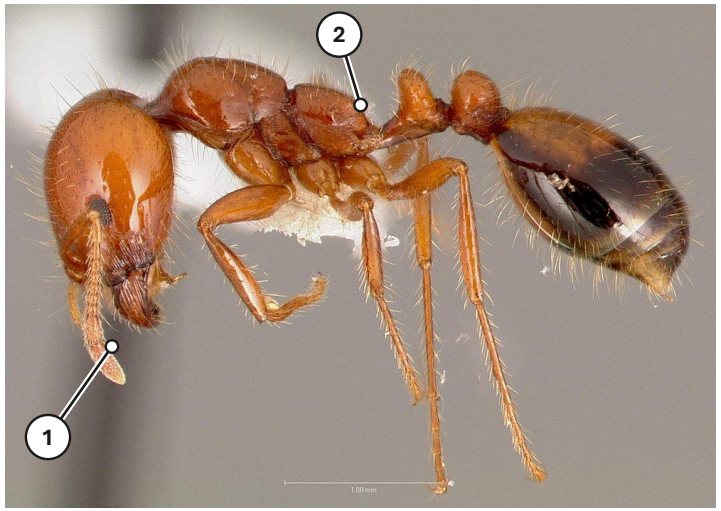
Pogonomyrmex 5–9 mm

Peninsula: 11 taxa · BC 11 · BCS 7 · 2 endemic

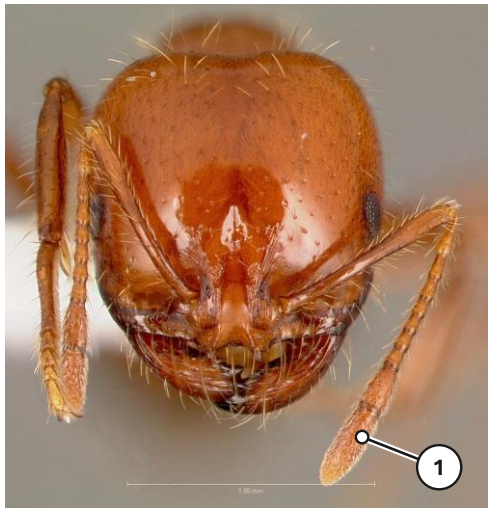
1. Basket of long curved hairs under the head (psammophore) in most species
2. Large square head with fine parallel ridges
3. Mesosoma evenly curved in profile, no dip before the propodeum
4. Spurs of the middle and hind tibiae comb-like; petiole with a long stalk and a pointed node

Compare: *Veromessor* (dip before the propodeum, simple spurs); *Myrmica* (mountains, no psammophore)

In Baja: Harvester ants of open ground throughout the peninsula; nest mounds often covered with pebbles; active by day; painful sting.



Solenopsis xyloni, CASENT0005806



Solenopsis xyloni, CASENT0005806

Solenopsis 1–5 mm

Peninsula: 9 taxa · BC 7 · BCS 8 · 3 endemic

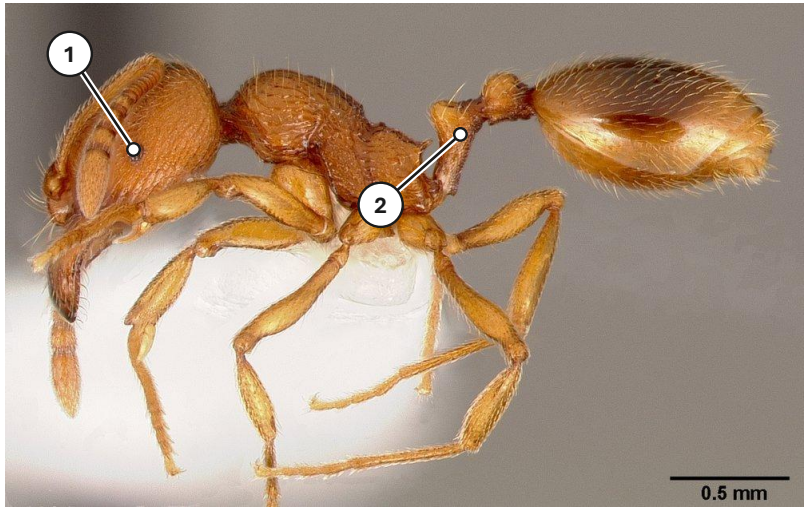
1. Antenna with 10 segments and a club of 2
2. Propodeum without spines or teeth
3. Fire ants: workers of several sizes (2–5 mm), sting. Thief ants: tiny (1–2 mm), yellow, minute eyes

Compare: *Monomorium* (12 segments, club of 3); *Pheidole* (club of 3, propodeal spines); *Allomerus* (11 segments, spines)

In Baja: *S. xyloni* (southern fire ant) is common; thief ants (*S. molesta* group) live in soil, often in the nests of other ants.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0102895, CASENT0102896, CASENT0005806).

Stenamma · *Strumigenys*



Stenamma diecki, CASENT0005811



Stenamma diecki, CASENT0005811

Stenamma 2.5–4 mm

Peninsula: 7 taxa · BC 6 · BCS 1 · 1 endemic

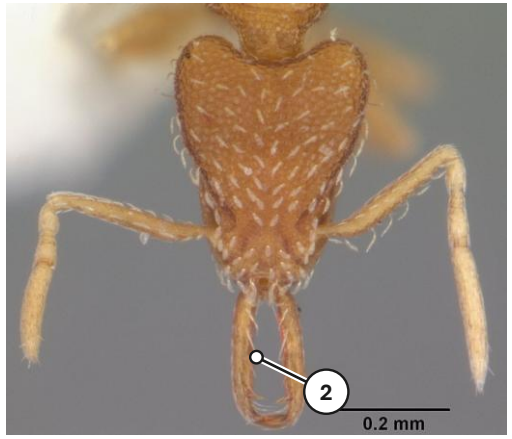
1. Eyes small, with few facets
2. Petiole with a long stalk
3. Antennal club of 4 segments; propodeum with short teeth
4. Frontal lobes close together; clypeus with two fine ridges that diverge forward

Compare: *Aphaenogaster* (larger, long legs, larger eyes); *Temnothorax* (club of 3, short stalk)

In Baja: Soil, rotten wood and leaf litter in moist places, mostly in the mountains; slow; best found by sifting litter.



Strumigenys silvestrii, CASENT0104531



Strumigenys silvestrii, CASENT0104531

Strumigenys 1.5–2.5 mm

Peninsula: no record yet

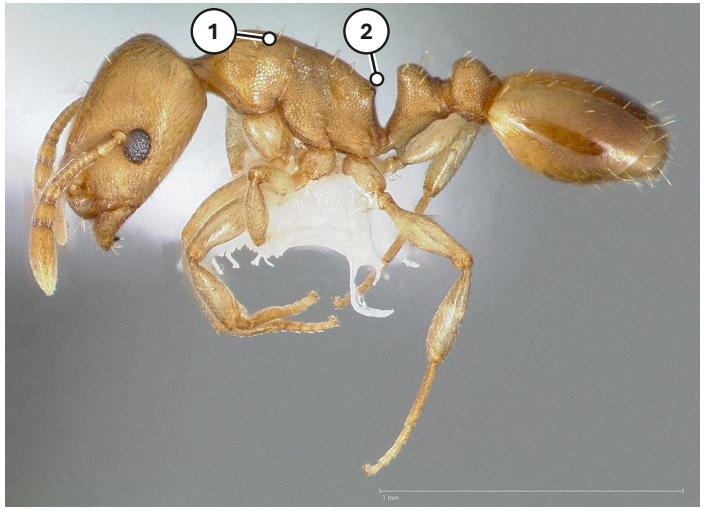
1. Head pear-shaped, narrow in front; antenna with only 6 segments (4 in a few species)
2. Mandibles long and narrow with a fork at the tip (*S. silvestrii*), or short and triangular
3. White spongy tissue around the waist

Compare: No other genus here has this head shape

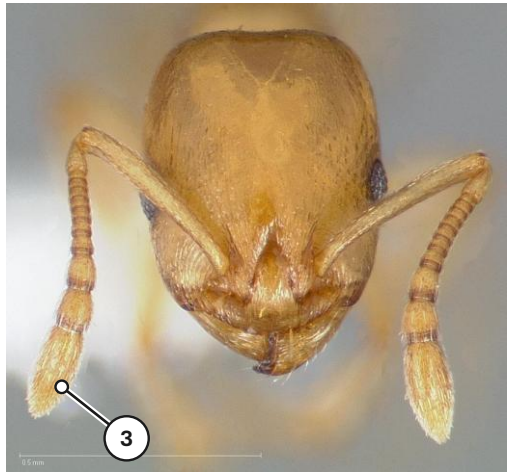
In Baja: Not yet recorded from the peninsula. Our database has *S. silvestrii* (introduced) only from the US side of the border region. Sift leaf litter.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005811, CASENT0104531).

Temnothorax · *Tetramorium*



Temnothorax andrei, CASENT0005683



Temnothorax andrei, CASENT0005683

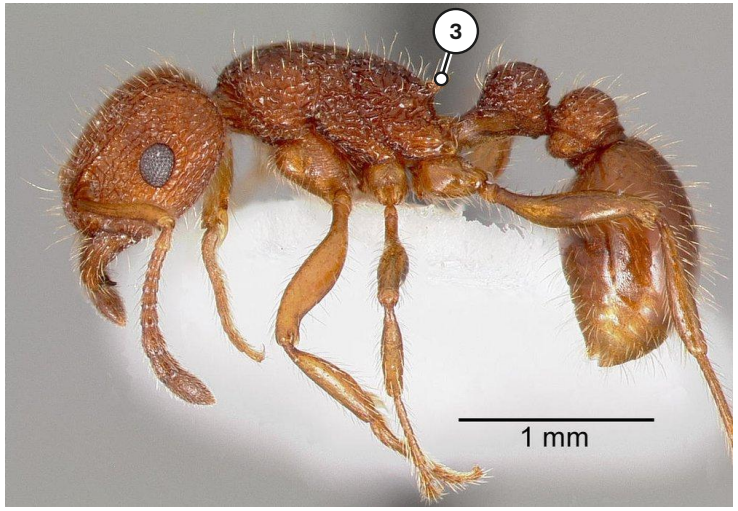
Temnothorax 2–3.5 mm

Peninsula: 27 taxa · BC 15 · BCS 16 · 9 endemic

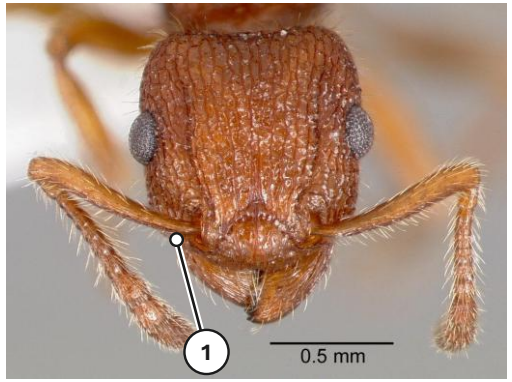
1. Mesosoma outline flat to weakly convex, without a step or dip, in most species
2. Propodeum with a pair of spines or teeth
3. Antenna with 11 or 12 segments and a club of 3
4. Workers all alike; mandible with 5 teeth

Compare: *Pheidole* minors (domed promesonotum); *Cardiocondyla* (no standing hairs); *Tetramorium* (ridge on the clypeus)

In Baja: Many species, several undescribed: dead twigs, galls, under bark, rock crevices, soil. Small colonies. Species: key to California *Temnothorax* on AntWiki.



Tetramorium spinosum, CASENT0005831



Tetramorium spinosum, CASENT0005831

Tetramorium 2.5–4 mm

Peninsula: 3 taxa · BC 2 · BCS 3

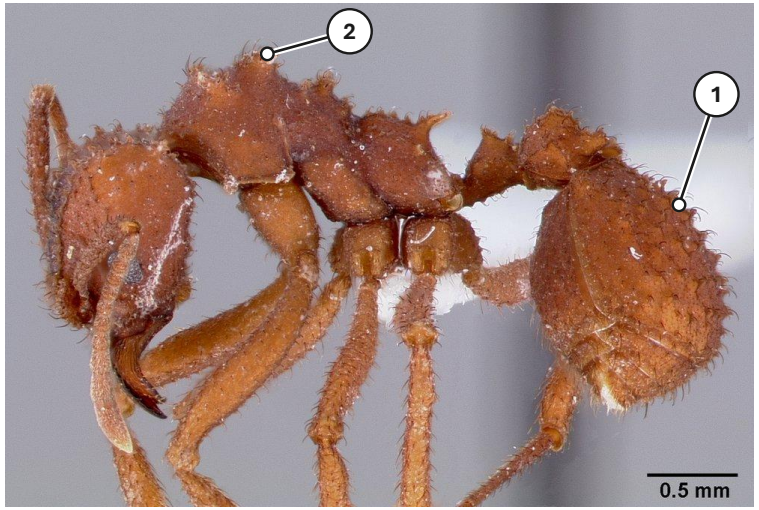
1. Side of the clypeus raised into a sharp ridge in front of each antennal socket
2. Head and mesosoma with coarse ridges or a network of ridges
3. Propodeal spines; antenna with 11 or 12 segments and a club of 3
4. Sting with a small flag-like plate at its tip (high magnification)

Compare: *Temnothorax* (no clypeal ridge, finer sculpture); *Myrmica* (larger, comb-like spurs)

In Baja: *T. spinosum* and *T. hispidum* are native species of open, dry ground. *T. lanuginosum* is introduced.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005683, CASENT0005831).

Trachymyrmex · *Veromessor*



Trachymyrmex arizonensis, CASENT0000334



Trachymyrmex arizonensis, CASENT0000334

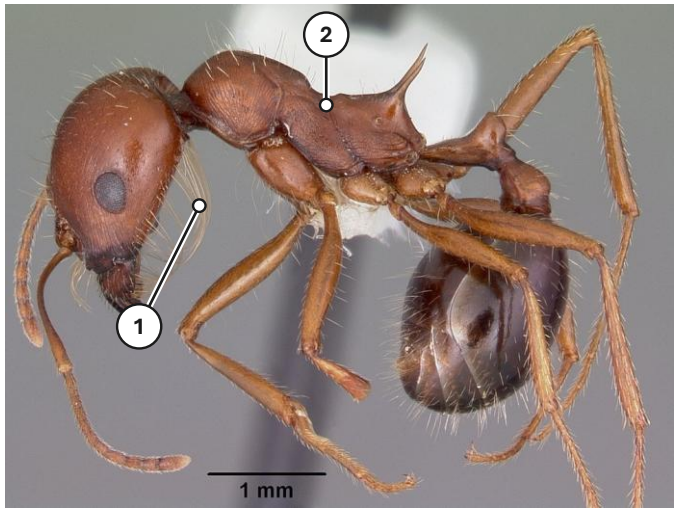
Trachymyrmex 3–4.5 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 1 · BCS 2 · 1 endemic

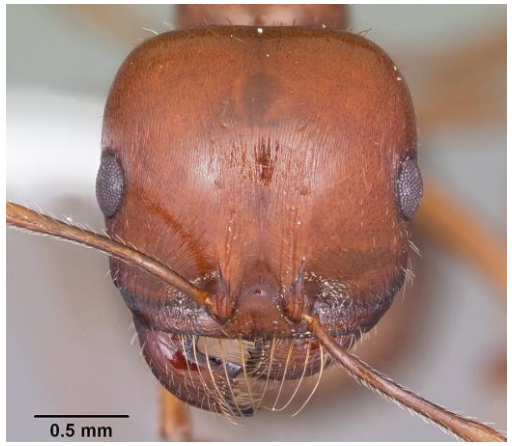
1. Body covered with small tubercles, each with a short curved hair
2. Mesosoma with short, blunt spines
3. Dull red-brown; all workers about the same size; antenna with 11 segments
4. Ridges on the face long, reaching almost to the back corners of the head

Compare: *Acromyrmex* (long sharp spines, several worker sizes); *Cyphomyrmex* (no spines, scale-like hairs)

In Baja: *T. arizonensis*: fungus grower of canyons and mountains; collects fallen flowers, leaves and insect droppings.



Veromessor julianus, CASENT0104946



Veromessor julianus, CASENT0104946

Veromessor 3.5–9 mm

Peninsula: 4 taxa · BC 4 · BCS 2 · 1 endemic

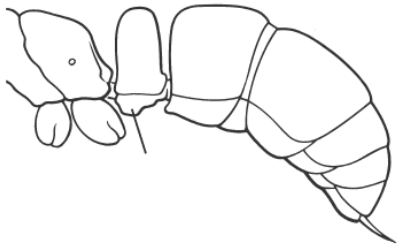
1. Long hairs under the head (psammophore), strong in *V. pergandei* and *V. julianus*
2. Promesonotum high, dropping to a lower propodeum
3. Head broad and square; mandible short and thick, its outer edge strongly curved
4. Antenna without a distinct club; tibial spurs simple or absent
5. Propodeum with spines, or unarmed (*V. pergandei*)

Compare: *Pogonomyrmex* (even profile, comb-like spurs); *Aphaenogaster* (slender, long narrow head)

In Baja: Seed harvesters of open, dry ground; seed husks pile up around the nest. *V. julianus* is endemic; *V. pergandei* forages in long columns.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0000334, CASENT0104946).

Ponerinae: key to the genera



1a 2–3.5 mm. Mandibles short, triangular, with teeth. Eyes minute or absent. Hind tibia with one comb-like spur; claws simple

→ ***Hypoponera*** p. 36



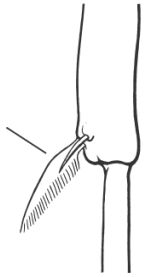
1b 5–7 mm. Mandibles long, narrow and curved, without teeth. Eyes large. Claws comb-like; hind tibia with two spurs

→ ***Leptogenys*** p. 36

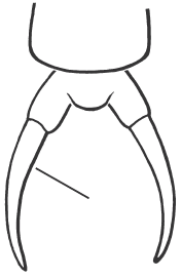
Look at high magnification



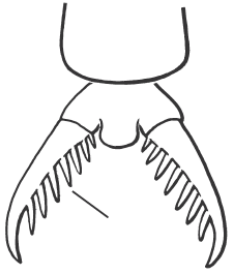
Hind tibia with one comb-like spur: *Hypoponera*



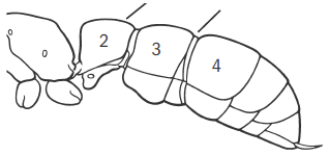
Two spurs, one large and one small: *Leptogenys*



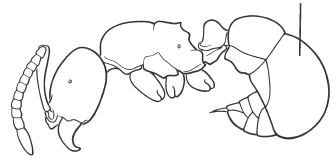
Claws simple: *Hypoponera*



Claws comb-like: *Leptogenys*



Not Ponerinae: waist segment broadly joined to the gaster (*Stigmatomma*)



Not Ponerinae: gaster tip curved forward (*Proceratium*)

Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

Hypoponera · *Leptogenys*



Hypoponera opacior, CASENT0005436



Hypoponera opacior, CASENT0005436

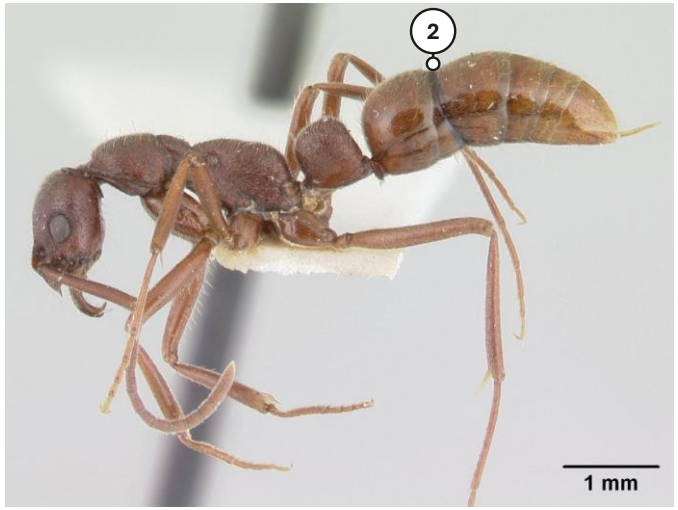
Hypoponera 2–3.5 mm

Peninsula: 6 taxa · BC 6 · BCS 5

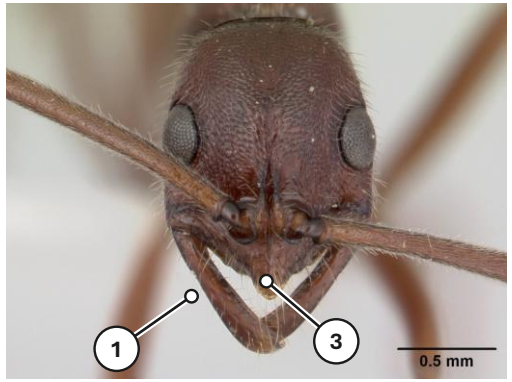
1. Petiole a thick upright scale
2. Gaster with a constriction after its first segment
3. Sting
4. Small and slender; eyes minute or absent; mandibles short and triangular
5. Hind tibia with one comb-like spur; claws simple

Compare: *Leptogenys* (much larger, long curved mandibles, large eyes); *Syscia*, *Acanthostichus* (sockets exposed)

In Baja: Soil, rotten wood and leaf litter in moist places. Several species are introduced.



Leptogenys peninsularis, CASENT0178787



Leptogenys peninsularis, CASENT0178787

Leptogenys 5–7 mm

Peninsula: 2 taxa · BC 1 · BCS 2 · 1 endemic

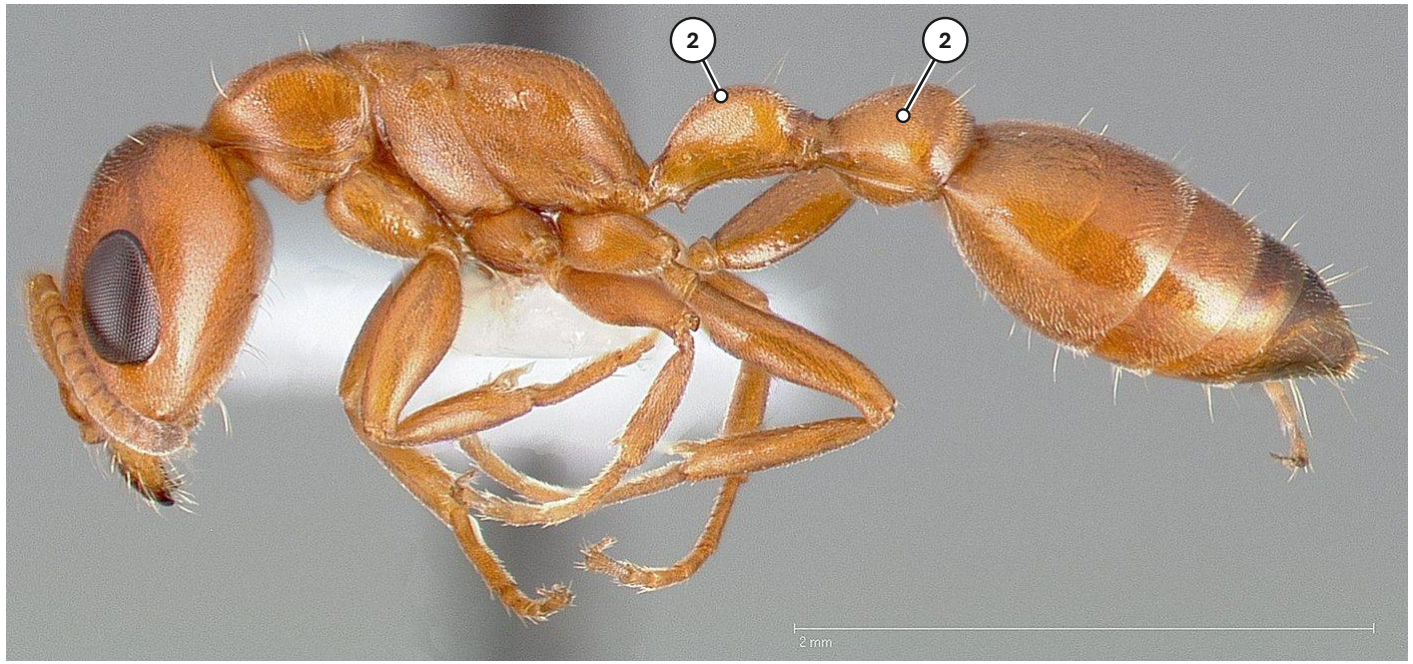
1. Mandibles long, narrow and curved, without teeth on the inner edge
2. Gaster with a constriction after its first segment; sting
3. Clypeus drawn out into a pointed lobe in the middle
4. Claws comb-like (high magnification); hind tibia with two spurs
5. Slender, long legs; large eyes

Compare: *Hypoponera* (small, tiny eyes, short mandibles)

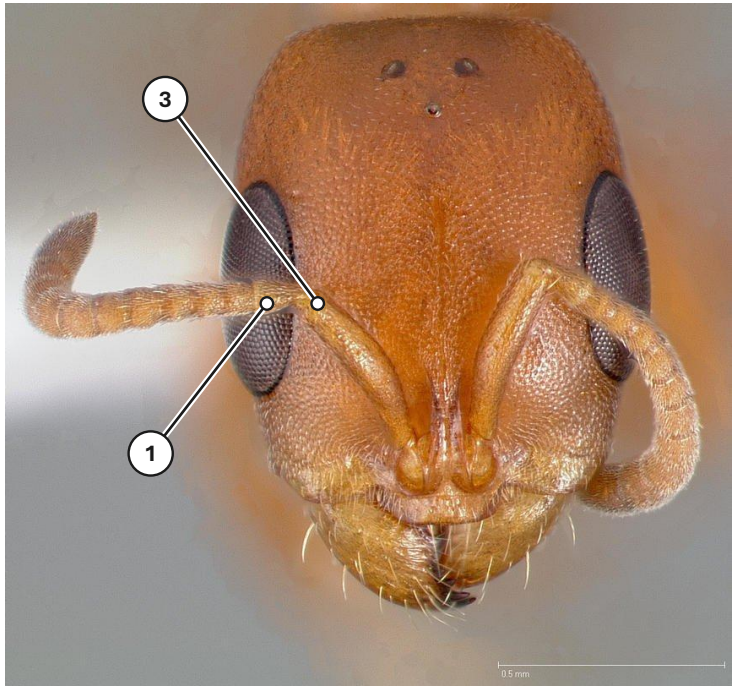
In Baja: *L. peninsularis* is endemic to the peninsula. Under stones in arroyos and canyons; hunts woodlice (isopods) at night.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005436, CASENT0178787).

Pseudomyrmex



Pseudomyrmex apache, CASENT0005440



Pseudomyrmex apache, CASENT0005440

Pseudomyrmex 4–8 mm

Peninsula: 3 taxa · BC 3 · BCS 3

1 Eyes very large, about half as long as the head
2 Waist of two segments; body long and narrow
3 Scape short: it does not reach the back of the head
4 Pronotum joined to the mesonotum by a movable joint; ocelli present
5 Sting; yellow-orange to brown

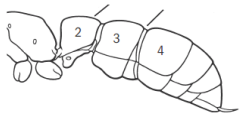
Compare: Slender Myrmicinae such as *Aphaenogaster* (small eyes, long scapes, pronotum fused)

In Baja: Nests in hollow dead twigs and branches of trees and shrubs; workers forage singly on vegetation.

Photos: AntWeb.org, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons (CASENT0005440).

Not on the Baja lists, but possible

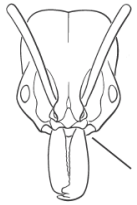
These genera are known from neighbouring regions and are not on either list for the peninsula. If a worker fits no genus in this guide, check these first, and keep the specimen.



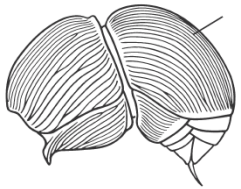
Stigmatomma Amblyoponinae
Known from: California
One waist segment broadly joined to the gaster; long mandibles; front edge of the clypeus with small teeth. Soil.



Proceratium Proceratiinae
Known from: California
Tip of the gaster curved forward, pointing under the body. Soil and rotten wood.



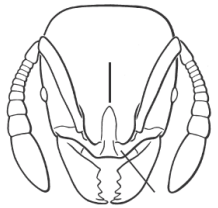
Odontomachus Ponerinae
Known from: Arizona, Sonora
Trap-jaw ant: long straight mandibles set in the middle of the front of the head. 8–10 mm.



Gnamptogenys*, *Ectatomma
Ectatomminae
Known from: mainland Mexico
One waist segment and a sting, like Ponerinae; gaster with coarse lengthwise ridges.



Dolopomyrmex Myrmicinae
Known from: deserts of California, Arizona, New Mexico
Blind soil ant; antenna with 11 segments; propodeum rounded.

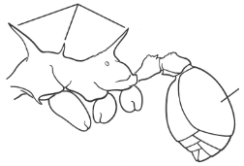


Rogeria Myrmicinae
Known from: one record in southern California
Like *Stenamma* (close frontal lobes, two ridges on the clypeus), but club of 3.

Novomessor Myrmicinae
Known from: Arizona, Sonora
Like a large *Aphaenogaster* (8 mm or more) with long, sharp propodeal spines. Desert.



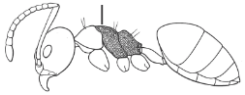
Cephalotes Myrmicinae
Known from: Arizona, Sonora
Flat, armoured body; antennae fold into deep grooves. In dead branches.



Atta Myrmicinae
Known from: Sonora, southern Arizona
Large leaf-cutter: three pairs of long spines on the mesosoma; smooth gaster; workers of very different sizes.



Leptothorax*, *Formicoxenus*, *Manica Myrmicinae
Known from: mountains of California
Would key out near *Temnothorax* and *Myrmica*.



Technomyrmex Dolichoderinae
Known from: introduced; greenhouses in California
No upright petiole scale; black with pale tarsi; standing hairs on the mesosoma.

Plagiolepis*, *Acropyga Formicinae
Known from: California (introduced, Santa Catalina Island); Arizona
Antenna with 10 or 11 segments. Tiny and yellow, unlike *Anoplolepis*; *Acropyga* has minute eyes and lives in soil.

Line drawings: Fisher & Cover 2007, from the AntWiki keys.

All genera at a glance (1 of 2)

Genus	Subfamily	Size (workers)	Recognise it by	Peninsula taxa	Page
Acanthostichus	Dorylinae	3–6 mm	cylindrical, shiny, short thick scapes	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	11
Acromyrmex	Myrmicinae	3–6 mm	leaf-cutter: long spines, several sizes	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	26
Allomerus	Myrmicinae	1.2–1.5 mm	tiny, golden; club of 2, long spines (was *Wasmannia*)	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	26
Anoplolepis	Formicinae	4–5 mm	11 antennal segments, very long scape, yellow	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	16
Aphaenogaster	Myrmicinae	3.5–7 mm	slender, long legs, long head, no club	5 (BC 3, BCS 5)	27
Brachymyrmex	Formicinae	1.5–2.5 mm	9 antennal segments, no club; tiny	2 (BC 2, BCS 1)	16
Camponotus	Formicinae	4–13 mm	even arch; sockets behind the clypeus	32 (BC 28, BCS 12)	17
Cardiocondyla	Myrmicinae	1.5–2.5 mm	no standing hairs; swollen postpetiole	2 (BC 1, BCS 1)	27
Colobopsis	Formicinae	3–6 mm	major head cut off flat in front	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	17
Crematogaster	Myrmicinae	2.5–5 mm	postpetiole joins the top of the gaster	12 (BC 11, BCS 7)	28
Cyphomyrmex	Myrmicinae	2–3 mm	wide frontal lobes, humps, scale-like hairs	2 (BC 2, BCS 1)	28
Dorymyrmex	Dolichoderinae	2.5–4 mm	cone on the propodeum	14 (BC 12, BCS 10)	7
Forelius	Dolichoderinae	2–2.5 mm	standing hairs; groove before the propodeum	4 (BC 4, BCS 3)	7
Formica	Formicinae	3.5–8 mm	ocelli; dip in the mesosoma	13 (BC 13, BCS 0)	18
Hypoponera	Ponerinae	2–3.5 mm	small, tiny eyes, thick petiole scale	6 (BC 6, BCS 5)	36
Lasius	Formicinae	2.5–4.5 mm	small, no ocelli, short scape	6 (BC 6, BCS 0)	18
Leptogenys	Ponerinae	5–7 mm	large, slender; long curved mandibles	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	36
Linepithema	Dolichoderinae	2.2–2.8 mm	upright scale, no standing hairs	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	8
Liometopum	Dolichoderinae	2.5–6 mm	even arch, velvety, several sizes	3 (BC 3, BCS 0)	8
Monomorium	Myrmicinae	1.5–2.5 mm	tiny, shiny, no propodeal spines, club of 3	5 (BC 4, BCS 2)	29
Myrmecina	Myrmicinae	2.5–3.5 mm	block-like petiole, two pairs of teeth	1 (BC 1, BCS 0)	29

All genera at a glance (2 of 2)

Genus	Subfamily	Size (workers)	Recognise it by	Peninsula taxa	Page
Myrmecocystus	Formicinae	3–9 mm	very long palps, psammophore	25 (BC 22, BCS 12)	19
Myrmelachista	Formicinae	1.5–3 mm	9–10 antennal segments with a club; in twigs	1 (BC 0, BCS 1)	19
Myrmica	Myrmicinae	4–5.5 mm	comb-like spurs, long spines, coarse ridges	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	30
Neivamyrmex	Dorylinae	2.5–5 mm	army ants: two waist segments, eyes absent or tiny	8 (BC 7, BCS 6)	11
Nylanderia	Formicinae	2–3 mm	coarse paired hairs; hairy scape	8 (BC 4, BCS 5)	20
Paratrechina	Formicinae	2.3–3 mm	extremely long scape and legs, dark	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	20
Pheidole	Myrmicinae	minors 1.5–3 mm, majors 2.5–5 mm	big-headed majors and small minors	37 (BC 23, BCS 28)	30
Pogonomyrmex	Myrmicinae	5–9 mm	harvester: psammophore, even profile	11 (BC 11, BCS 7)	31
Polyergus	Formicinae	5–7 mm	sickle-shaped mandibles	1 (BC 1, BCS 0)	21
Prenolepis	Formicinae	3–4 mm	mesosoma pinched in the middle; long scape	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	21
Pseudomyrmex	Pseudomyrmecinae	4–8 mm	very large eyes, long narrow body	3 (BC 3, BCS 3)	37
Solenopsis	Myrmicinae	1–5 mm	10 antennal segments, club of 2	9 (BC 7, BCS 8)	31
Stenamma	Myrmicinae	2.5–4 mm	small eyes, club of 4, long petiole stalk; litter	7 (BC 6, BCS 1)	32
Strumigenys	Myrmicinae	1.5–2.5 mm	pear-shaped head, 6 antennal segments	no record yet	32
Syscia	Dorylinae	2–3 mm	9 antennal segments, big club, pitted body	1 (BC 1, BCS 1)	12
Tapinoma	Dolichoderinae	1.5–3.2 mm	no visible scale; 4 gaster segments from above	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	9
Temnothorax	Myrmicinae	2–3.5 mm	small, club of 3, flat outline, short spines	27 (BC 15, BCS 16)	33
Tetramorium	Myrmicinae	2.5–4 mm	ridge on the clypeus in front of the socket	3 (BC 2, BCS 3)	33
Trachymyrmex	Myrmicinae	3–4.5 mm	tubercles with curved hairs, short spines	2 (BC 1, BCS 2)	34
Veromessor	Myrmicinae	3.5–9 mm	harvester: square head, dip before propodeum	4 (BC 4, BCS 2)	34

Sources

Keys and characters

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AntWeb, https://www.antweb.org: specimen photos and species pages, for the next step: identification to species.

Genus list and taxon counts

Merged list of the Baja California peninsula (11 October 2026): our occurrence database (Carrillo-Vergara et al., unpublished) and the updated list of Johnson & Ward. Counts are provisional and include unnamed forms; please do not cite them.

Pictures

Specimen photos: AntWeb.org (California Academy of Sciences), licence CC BY 4.0, taken from their copies on Wikimedia Commons; cropped, and marked with numbers and arrows, for this guide.

Line drawings of single characters: Fisher & Cover (2007), University of California Press, as shown in the AntWiki keys; the key letters and genus captions were removed. Reproduced here for teaching.

Photos of the last tergite of Dorylinae: Borowiec (2016), CC BY 4.0. Coloured schematic drawings (waist, antennae): made for this guide.

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Acanthostichus punctiscapus, CASENT0003311: April Nobile
Acromyrmex versicolor, CASENT0104036: April Nobile
Allomerus auropunctatus (as *Wasmannia auropunctata*), CASENT0005665: April Nobile
Anoplolepis gracilipes, CASENT0102965: April Nobile
Aphaenogaster boulderensis, CASENT0005722: AntWeb
Brachymyrmex depilis, CASENT0005338: April Nobile
Camponotus clarithorax, CASENT0005341: April Nobile
Cardiocondyla mauritanica, CASENT0005678: AntWeb
Colobopsis papago (as *Camponotus papago*), CASENT0065778: April Nobile
Colobopsis papago (as *Camponotus papago*), CASENT0104697: April Nobile
Crematogaster coarctata, CASENT0005667: AntWeb
Cyphomyrmex wheeleri, CASENT0102834: Jen Fogarty
Dorymyrmex bicolor, CASENT0005318: April Nobile
Forelius pruinosus, CASENT0005320: April Nobile
Formica argentea, CASENT0005361: April Nobile
Hypoponera opacior, CASENT0005436: AntWeb
Lasius americanus (as *Lasius alienus*), CASENT0005401: AntWeb
Leptogenys peninsularis, CASENT0178787: April Nobile
Linepithema humile, CASENT0006019: AntWeb
Liometopum occidentale, CASENT0106078: Michael Branstetter 2007
Monomorium ergatogyna, CASENT0005781: April Nobile
Myrmecina americana, CASENT0102853: Jen Fogarty
Myrmecocystus flaviceps, CASENT0106055: Michael Branstetter
Myrmelachista ramulorum, CASENT0104126: April Nobile
Myrmica tahoensis, CASENT0005705: AntWeb
Neivamyrmex californicus, CASENT0005330: April Nobile
Nylanderia bruesii (as *Paratrechina bruesii*), CASENT0102819: Jen Fogarty
Paratrechina longicornis, CASENT0005425: AntWeb
Paratrechina longicornis, CASENT0104236: April Nobile
Pheidole hyatti, CASENT0005739: AntWeb
Pheidole vistana, CASENT0005740: AntWeb
Pogonomyrmex californicus, CASENT0102895: Jen Fogarty
Pogonomyrmex rugosus, CASENT0102896: Jen Fogarty
Polyergus breviceps, CASENT0102822: April Nobile
Prenolepis imparis, CASENT0102823: Jen Fogarty
Pseudomyrmex apache, CASENT0005440: AntWeb
Solenopsis xyloni, CASENT0005806: AntWeb
Stenamma diecki, CASENT0005811: April Nobile
Strumigenys silvestrii, CASENT0104531: April Nobile
Syscia augustae, CASENT0005317: April Nobile
Tapinoma sessile, CASENT0005329: AntWeb
Temnothorax andrei, CASENT0005683: AntWeb
Tetramorium spinosum, CASENT0005831: AntWeb
Trachymyrmex arizonensis, CASENT0000334: April Nobile
Veromessor julianus, CASENT0104946: April Nobile