Monomorium floricola

System: Terrestrial

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Common name: floral ant (English), futairo-hime-ari (English), bicoloured trailing ant (English), flower ant (English), brownish-red flower ant (English), Braunrote Blutenameise (German)

Synonym
- Monomorium angusticlava, Donisthorpe, 1947
- Monomorium cinnabari, Roger, 1863
- Monomorium floreanum, Stitz, 1932
- Monomorium impressum, Smith, 1876
- Monomorium poecilum, Roger, 1863
- Monomorium specularis, Mayr, 1866

Similar species

Summary
The primarily arboreal flower ant (Monomorium floricola) is one of the world’s most broadly distributed tramp ants. Most occurrence records of M. floricola are in tropical and sub-tropical regions from latitudes above 30 degrees; populations in latitudes above 35 degrees are found in heated buildings or inside greenhouses. M. floricola has been identified as a significant arboreal predator of insect eggs; in Guam it is recognised as one of three most important ant species attacking eggs of native butterflies resulting in their reduced populations.

Species Description

Monomorium floricola are small and slender and can be distinguished by their distinctive bicoloured body; a pale body with a darker brown head and gaster (Wetterer 2010)

Please click on AntWeb: Monomorium floricola for images and assistance with identification. The AntWeb image comparison tool lets you compare images of ants at the subfamily, genus, species or specimen level. You may also specify which types of images you would like to compare: head, profile, dorsal, or label.

Please follow this link for a fully illustrated Lucid key to common invasive ants [Hymenoptera: Formicidae] of the Pacific Island region [requires the most recent version of Java installed]. The factsheet on Monorium floricola contains an overview, diagnostic features, comparision charts, images, nomenclature and links. (Sarnat, 2008)
Notes
Three subspecies that are direct children to *Monomorium floricola* are *Monomorium floricola floricola* (Jerdon, 1851); *Monomorium floricola furinum* Forel, 1911; *Monomorium floricola philippinense* Forel, 1910

Habitat Description
*Monomorium floricola* is primarily arboreal forming large colonies in bushes and trees in habitats that are disturbed to varying degrees. They are a common urban species in most tropical countries (Wilson & Taylor 1967 in Wetterer 2010)

General Impacts
*Monomorium floricola*, *Solenopsis geminata* and *Tapinoma minutum* are listed as significant native butterfly egg predators causing reduction in population numbers of native butterflies (Nafus 1993). In the Philippines *M. floricola* is recognised as a serious pest of silkworms (Banks 1911 in Wetterer, 2010); of coconut pests (Way et al 1989). *M. floricola* has also been observed as a dominant species sometimes in flooded mangrove habitats where there is less competition with non-arboreal species (Wetterer 2010).

Management Info
The [Pacific Ant Prevention Programme](http://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1755) is a proposal prepared for the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation and Regional Technical Meeting For Plant Protection. This plan aims to prevent the red imported fire ant and other invasive ant species with economic, environmental and/or social impacts, entering and establishing in or spreading between (or within) countries of the Pacific Region.

Identification:
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ALIEN RANGE

[1] ANGOLA
[2] ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
[1] AUSTRALIA
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[1] BERMUDA
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[1] CANADA
[1] CAYMAN ISLANDS
[2] CHINA
[1] COLOMBIA
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[1] GUYANA
[1] HONDURAS
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[1] KIRIBATI
[1] KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
[1] MADAGASCAR
[1] MARTINIQUE
[1] MEXICO
[1] MONTSERRAT
[1] NEW CALEDONIA
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[1] NIUE
[1] PALAU
[1] PARAGUAY
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[1] SWEDEN
[1] TAIWAN

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[1] BAHAMAS
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[1] KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF
[1] LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
[1] MARSHALL ISLANDS
[2] MAURITIUS
[1] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
[1] NETHERLANDS
[2] NEW ZEALAND
[1] NIGERIA
[1] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
[1] PANAMA
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[1] REUNION
[1] SAINT LUCIA
[1] SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
[1] SEYCHELLES
[1] SURINAME
[1] SWITZERLAND
[1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF
FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Monomorium floricola


Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), 2010. Monomorium floricola (Jerdon, 1851)


Summary: Available from: http://midsouthentomologist.org.msstate.edu/pdfs/Vol3_2/Vol3_2_007.pdf [Accessed 26 July 2010]


