

TYPES OF BRITISH ANT

Identification

Key to sub-families

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|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | Waist of 2 small segments | Myrmicinae |
| - | Waist of 1 segment | 2 |
| 2 | Gaster constricted between segments 1 and 2, with a well-developed sting | Ponerinae |
| - | No constriction, no sting | 3 |
| 3 | Five segments of the gaster visible from above, a circular orifice for ejecting venom fringed by guide hairs. | Formicinae |
| - | Four segments of gaster visible from above, no circular orifice but a slit through which viscous defensive fluid is passed, no hairs. | Dolichoderinae |

Key to genera

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| A | Ponerinae | |
| | Only one certain British species, <i>Ponera coarcta</i> , exists; it is a slow, timid ant with small colonies. | |
| B | Myrmicinae | |
| 1 | Queens black, with shallow, longitudinal trough on gaster, no workers; in <i>Tetramorium caespitum</i> nest | <i>Anergates</i> |
| | Otherwise | 2 |
| 2 | No spines on the rear of the mesosoma, antennae of 10 segments, the last 2 forming a club | <i>Solenopsis</i> |
| - | Mesosoma toothed or spined at the rear | 3 |
| 3 | Second waist segment with a forwards-directed spine underneath | 4 |
| - | No such spine | 5 |
| 4 | Antennae 11-segmented, tibial spurs on legs 2 and 3, in <i>Formica rufa</i> nests | <i>Formicoxenus</i> |
| - | Antennae 12-segmented, no tibial spurs on legs 2 and 3, nor workers; in <i>Myrmica</i> nests | <i>Sifolinia</i> |

5	Jaw sickle-shaped; in nests of <i>Tetramorium caespitum</i>	<i>Strongylonathus</i>
-	Jaw with teeth	6
6	First waist segment elongate, eyes minute	<i>Stenamma</i>
-	First waist segment not elongate, eyes normal	7
7	First waist segment oblong from side with 2 tubercles above	<i>Myrmecina</i>
-	Segment not so	8
8	Front of first thoracic segment squared dorsally, small black ants	<i>Tetramorium</i>
-	Front of first thoracic segment rounded dorsally, reddish-brown ants	9
9	Last 3 antennal segments shorter than the rest of the funiculus	<i>Myrmica</i>
-	Last 3 antennal segments about as long as the rest of the funiculus	<i>Leptothorax</i>
C	Formicinae	
1	Ocelli large and distinct, legs long, segments of 2-5 of the funiculus longer than the rest together	<i>Formica</i>
2	Ocelli very small and instinct, legs short, segments 2-5 of the funiculus shorter than the rest together	<i>Lasius</i>
D	Dolichoderinae	
	Only one British species, <i>Tapinoma erraticum</i> , exists; it has small, black, agile workers which run about with their gaster raised.	

Key To Species

A	<i>Myrmica</i>	
0	Scape of antennae near point of attachment to head bent gradually and smoothly without ridges; head relatively shiny, especially the frontal area	1
-	Scape bent sharply through a right angle, with or without ridges, head dull, matt	2
1	Epinotal spines long in relation to body size; either workers large, queens fewer than workers, fewer than 10 queens in a colony (<i>macrogyna</i>) or queens the same size as workers, more than 10 in a colony	

	(<i>microgyna</i>)	<i>ruginodis</i>
-	Epinotal spines short in relation to body size; workers small, queens much larger, up to 100 queens in a colony	<i>rubra</i>
2	Antennal scape without ridge or teeth; frontal area with marked striations; a dark ant in moor land	<i>sulcinodis</i>
-	Antennal scape with ridges or teeth at the bend	3
3	Scape with very characteristic transverse ridge or plate at bend, almost tooth-like from some aspects; a small dark species	<i>lobicornis</i>
-	Scape with lateral ridge at bend, reddish-brown and <i>scabrinodis</i> is a smaller ant and has a less pronounced lateral ridge than <i>sabuleti</i> ; it also has more queens in each colony	<i>scabrinodis</i> <i>sabuleti</i>
B <i>Leptothorax</i>		
0	Antennae with 11 segments; a relatively large species	<i>acervorum</i>
-	Antennae with 12 segments; a relatively small species	1
1	Club of funiculus no darker than the rest of the antennae; a distinct dorsal groove or depression across the middle of the mesosoma; nests on tree stumps and wood	<i>nylanderi</i>
-	Club of funiculus darker than the rest of the antennae; no transverse groove on the mesosoma; rare species and	<i>tuberum</i> <i>interruptus</i>
C <i>Lasius</i>		
0	Colour jet black, shiny, head heart-shaped	<i>fuliginosus</i>
-	colour otherwise, head normal	1
1	Colour brown to dull black	2
-	Colour yellow	4
2	Scape of antennae and tibia of leg short, upright hairs; body dark, almost black but hairy and matt	<i>niger</i>
-	No such body hairs; body browner, less hairy	3
3	Frontal area indistinct; smaller, uniformly coloured, individuals living in open, sunny spaces	<i>alienus</i>
-	Frontal area distinct; larger individuals with gaster and head darker than the thorax; living in old trees	<i>brunneus</i>

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|---|--|---------------------|
| 4 | Scape of antennae and tibia of leg with short, upright hairs and | <i>umbratus</i> |
| - | No such hairs | <i>rabaudi</i>
5 |
| 5 | Hairs on top of gaster short, scale tapered above | <i>mixtus</i> |
| - | Hairs on top of gaster long, scale broad and low, not tapered above. no cheek hairs in front view; makes soil mounds in grasslands | <i>flavus</i> |

Three of the yellow species *umbratus*, *rabaudi* and *mixtus*, are very variable and intergrade in the worker caste.

D *Formica*

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 0 | Clypeus with central notch in lower margin; colour usually deep red | <i>sanguinea</i> |
| - | Clypeus without notch; colour reddish-brown to black | 1 |
| 1 | Back of head and top of scale notched | <i>exsecta</i> |
| - | Not so | 2 |
| 2 | Thorax reddish-brown, paler than head and gaster | 3 |
| - | Body black all over | 6 |
| 3 | Eyes with small hairs and back of head with prominent long hairs; wood ants making mound nests of vegetation near trees or in open moor land in northern Britain | 4 |
| - | Eyes and back of head bare | 5 |
| 4 | Thorax with many fine, long hairs | <i>lugubris</i> |
| - | Thorax wither fewer, shorter hairs | <i>aquilonia</i> |
| 5 | Frontal area shiny, maxillary palp short and hairy; southern wood ants making large mound nest in open forest | <i>rufa</i> |
| - | Frontal area dull; individuals smaller, making very small mound nests or excavations in open, heathy places | <i>cunicularia</i> |
| 6 | Body shiny, black; building small vegetation mounds in wet heath and bog | <i>transcaucasica</i> |
| - | Body dull, black; excavating nests in drier places and | <i>lemanii</i>
<i>fusca</i> |

from MV Brian, 1977

SPECIES OF ANT FOUND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

This list of British Ants (Including the Channel Islands species .) follows Skinner , G. J. and Allen , G. W. ,1996 , Naturalists' Handbooks 24 : Ants . Introduced species are marked with * , species only found in the Channel Islands with % , sibling species with °° and species that aren't keyed in the book but mentioned to be British with £ .

Ponerinae

- 01) *Ponera coarctata*
- 02) *Hypoponera punctatissima* (* ; £ , worker separated in a note)

Dolichoderinae

- 03) *Tapinoma ambiguum*
- 04) *Tapinoma erraticum*
- 05) *Tapinoma melanocephalum* (* ; £ , worker separated from 03 and 04 in a note)
- 06) *Linepithema humile* (* ; £ , worker separated in a note)

Formicinae

- 07) *Plagiolepis vindobonensis* (% ; £ , worker separated in a note)
- 08) *Formica sanguinea*
- 09) *Formica exsecta*
- 10) *Formica candida*
- 11) *Formica lemani*
- 12) *Formica fusca*
- 13) *Formica rufibarbis*
- 14) *Formica cunicularia*
- 15) *Formica pratensis*

- 16) *Formica rufa*
- 17) *Formica lugubris*
- 18) *Formica aquilonia*
- 19) *Lasius fuliginosus*
- 20) *Lasius sabularum* (°° , 21 , 22)
- 21) *Lasius meridionalis* (°° , 20 , 22)
- 22) *Lasius umbratus* (°° , 20 , 21)
- 23) *Lasius flavus*
- 24) *Lasius mixtus*
- 25) *Lasius brunneus*
- 26) *Lasius niger* (°° , 27 , 28)
- 27) *Lasius platythorax* (°° , 26 , 28 ; £ , separated from 26 in notes)
- 28) *Lasius emarginatus* (°° , 26 , 27 ; % ; £ , only worker separated from 26 and 27 in a note)
- 29) *Lasius alienus* (°° , 30)
- 30) *Lasius psammophilus* (°° , 29 ; £)
- 31) *Paratrechina vividula* (* ; £)
- 32) *Paratrechina longicornis* (* ; £)
- 33) *Camponotus* sp. (* ; £)

Myrmicinae

- 34) *Anergates atratulus* (no workers)
- 35) *Strongylognathus testaceus*
- 36) *Solenopsis fugax*

- 37) *Solenopsis monticola* (% ; £)
- 38) *Myrmecina graminicola*
- 39) *Tetramorium caespitum*
- 40) *Stenamma debile*
- 41) *Stenamma westwoodii*
- 42) *Aphaenogaster subterranea* (% ; £ , worker separated in a note)
- 43) *Formicoxenus nitidulus*
- 44) *Leptothorax acervorum*
- 45) *Leptothorax nylanderi*
- 46) *Leptothorax interruptus* (°° , 47)
- 47) *Leptothorax unifasciatus* (°° , 46 ; % ; £ , worker separated from 46 in a note)
- 48) *Leptothorax tuberum*
- 49) *Myrmica karavajevi* (no workers)
- 50) *Myrmica hirsuta* (workers are rare and not keyed)
- 51) *Myrmica sulcinodis*
- 52) *Myrmica rubra*
- 53) *Myrmica ruginodis*
- 54) *Myrmica bessarabica*
- 55) *Myrmica scabrinodis*
- 56) *Myrmica sabuleti*
- 57) *Myrmica lobicornis*
- 58) *Myrmica schencki*
- 59) *Monomorium pharaonis* (* ; £ , only the genus in the worker caste is separated in a note)

60) *Monomorium salomonis* (* ; £ , only the genus in the worker caste is separated in a note)

61) *Crematogaster scutellaris* (* ; £ , worker separated in a note)

62) *Pheidole megacephala* (* ; £ , worker separated in a note)

63 - 66) *Tetramorium* sp. (* ; £ , workers from all four species together separated from 39 in a note but no names and not keyed)