

CHAPTER SIX

Order Hymenoptera (pt.2- Carpenter Ants)

CLASSIFICATION

Class Insecta

Order Hymenoptera

Family Formicidae

Genus *Camponotus*

Species *C. pennsylvanicus* (the black carpenter ant)

This is the largest genus of ants with about 600 species.
Forty three species of *Camponotus* are found in North America.

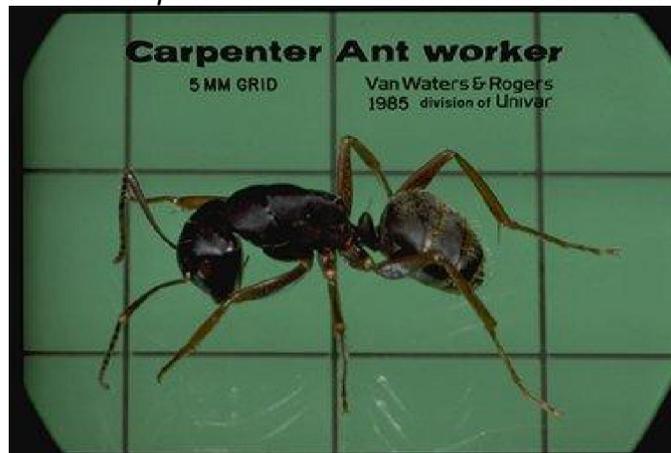


Figure 6 - 1

Carpenter Ants exhibit a complete metamorphosis, where the larvae look nothing like the adult.

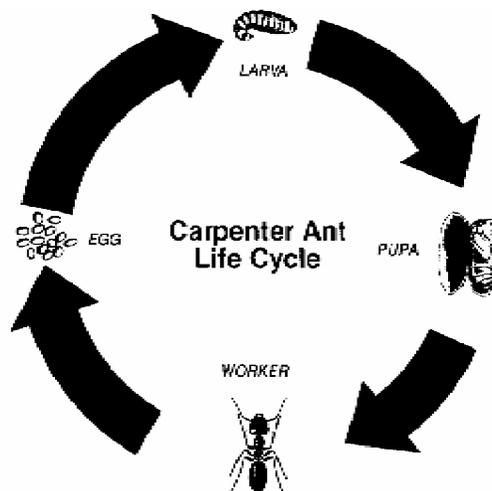


Figure 6 - 2

COMMON SPECIES IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

C. pennsylvanicus, The Black carpenter ant. Common species in the eastern United States: Black in color, without an antennal club, polymorphic, Development – eggs hatch in 24 hours, larvae 21 days, pupa 21 days. (total = 66 days to adult.) Thorax partly red – anterior is black, the posterior part of thorax is red; legs are dark reddish brown.

C. ferrugineus (the red carpenter ant, the rust-colored carpenter ant found in the Eastern and mid western U.S.).

C. herculeanus (the northern carpenter ant).
Nests in logs and stumps.

C. nearcticus (the smaller carpenter ant).

C. caryae (no common name)

C. novaboracensis – (the New York carpenter ant; the red carpenter ant) Generally does not occur as a house pest. Entire thorax reddish. Found in the northern part of the U.S.

C. floridanus the Florida carpenter ant.

C. tortuganus – resembles the Florida carp. ant. Head, thorax, and petiole reddish, gaster (abdomen) darker in color.

C. decipiens (no common name)

C. planatus (no common name)

These ants are called carpenter ants since they excavate their nests in wood. They do not normally construct their nests in sound wood, but nest in wood which is, or has been, wet and thus subject to decay. They may damage wood that is otherwise sound, but was located adjacent to moisture-damaged wood (fig. 6-3). They do not eat the wood for its nutritional value, they excavate it. Carpenter ants feed on insects and honeydew.



Figure 6 - 3

IDENTIFICATION

- * One node on the pedicel.

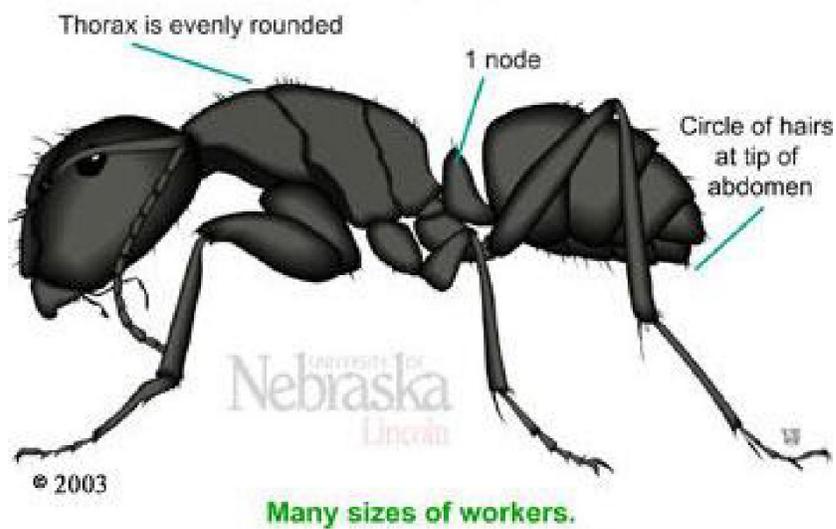


Figure 6 - 4