Problem and Emerging Ant Pests in Georgia

Daniel R. Suiter
University of Georgia
Department of Entomology
Griffin, GA

Velvet Ants (Cow Killers)...Are Not Ants!

- Wingless, solitary, parasitic wasp.
- May inflict painful sting if handled.
- Commonly parasitize
 cicada killers and
 other large wasp
 species (Hymenoptera:
 Sphecidae).







Ant Control

Alter environment/ correct conducive conditions (cut branches, remove leaf litter & debris, dry the environment)

Baits (gel, granule, liquid, and station) minimize exposure and are target-specific.

To a lesser extent liquid sprays (spot spray to nests) and granular formulations (broadcast) to grass.

Argentine Ants (#1 nuisance ant pest in GA)

Termidor spray outside only (primarily); expose nests in mulch and spray (no more than 1 gal); spray trailing ants.

Bait inside as needed.





- Known as "sugar ant" in Georgia
- Introduced into New Orleans in 1890s
- Southeast, California, Hawaii
- Nests in mulch, leaf litter (moisture); moves indoors in winter to survive cold
- Hundreds of thousands of workers and thousands of queens; long foraging trails (at least 350 feet)



Rain Causes Argentine Ants to *Move*, but Drought Drives Them Indoors for Water





Tawny Crazy Ants

(#1 emerging nuisance ant pest in GA; sporadic in South and Southeast GA)

Termidor spray outside, baits inside and outside as needed.

First GA find in Albany (August 2013)
Camden and Glynn Counties (August 2014)

Tawny Crazy Ant

Nylanderia fulva

(aka Raspberry Crazy Ant, Hairy Crazy Ant, Caribbean Crazy Ant)

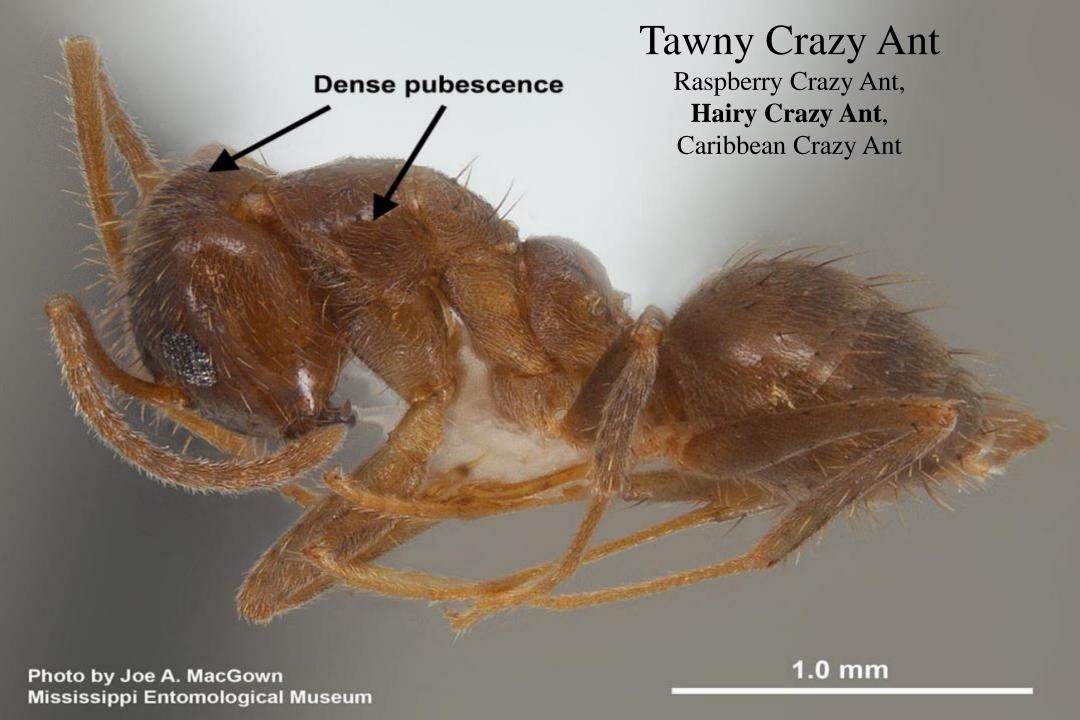
- Introduced into FL and TX from South America.
- Major pest where found (FL, TX, AL, MS, LA, GA).

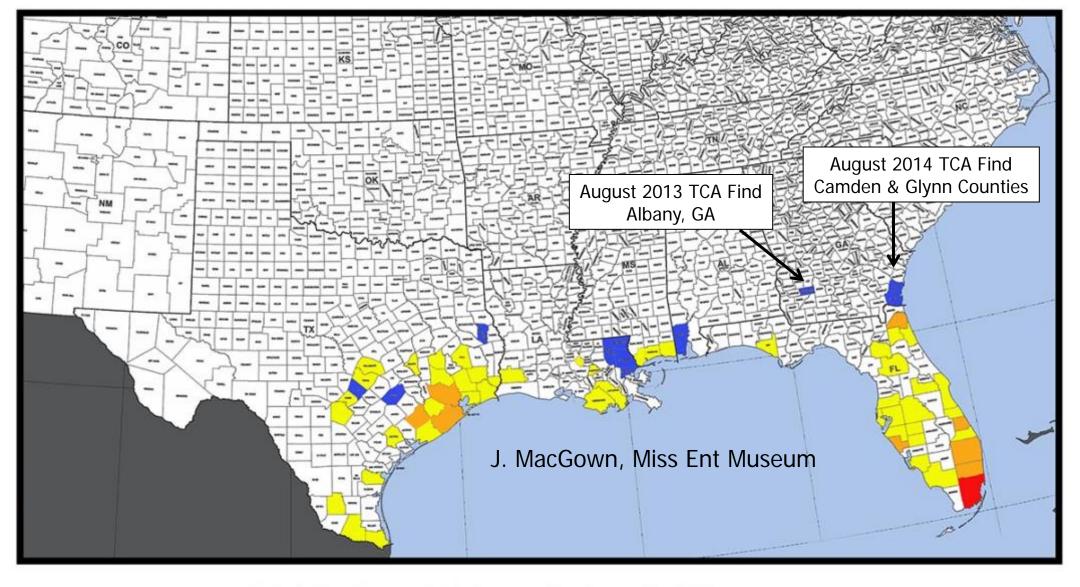
August 2013 Albany, Georgia



J. MacGown, Miss Ent Museum

August 2014
Camden & Glynn Counties





Distribution of Nylanderia fulva in US

- First record from US, 1953
- US county records by 2004
- US county records, 2004-2012
- US county records, after August 2013

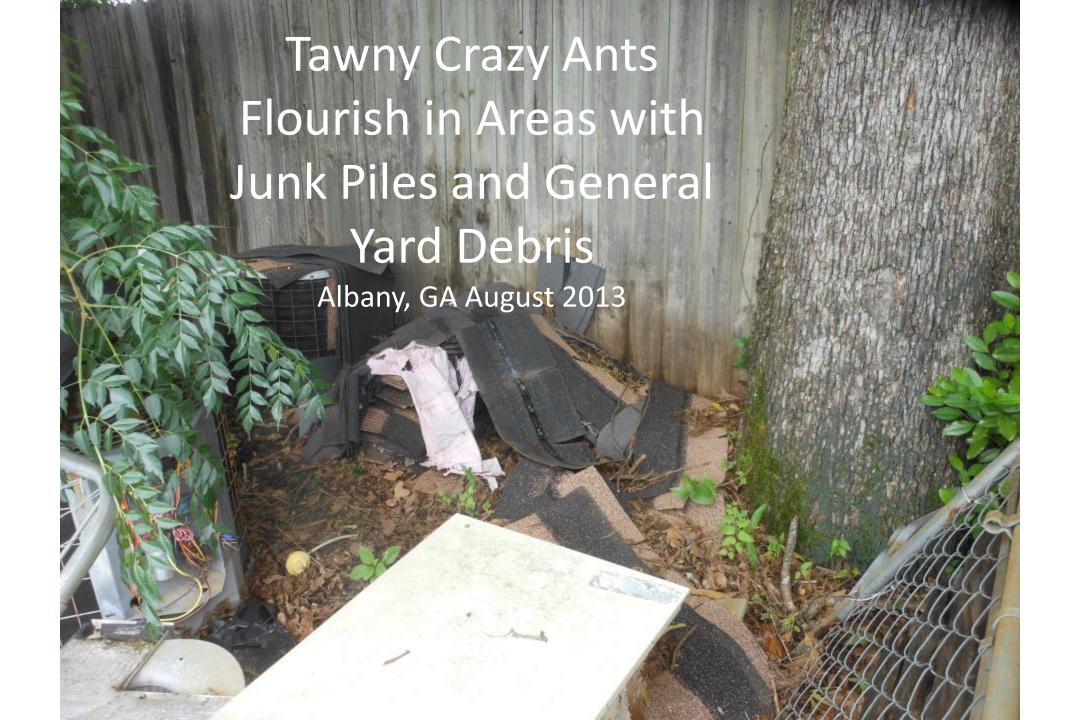












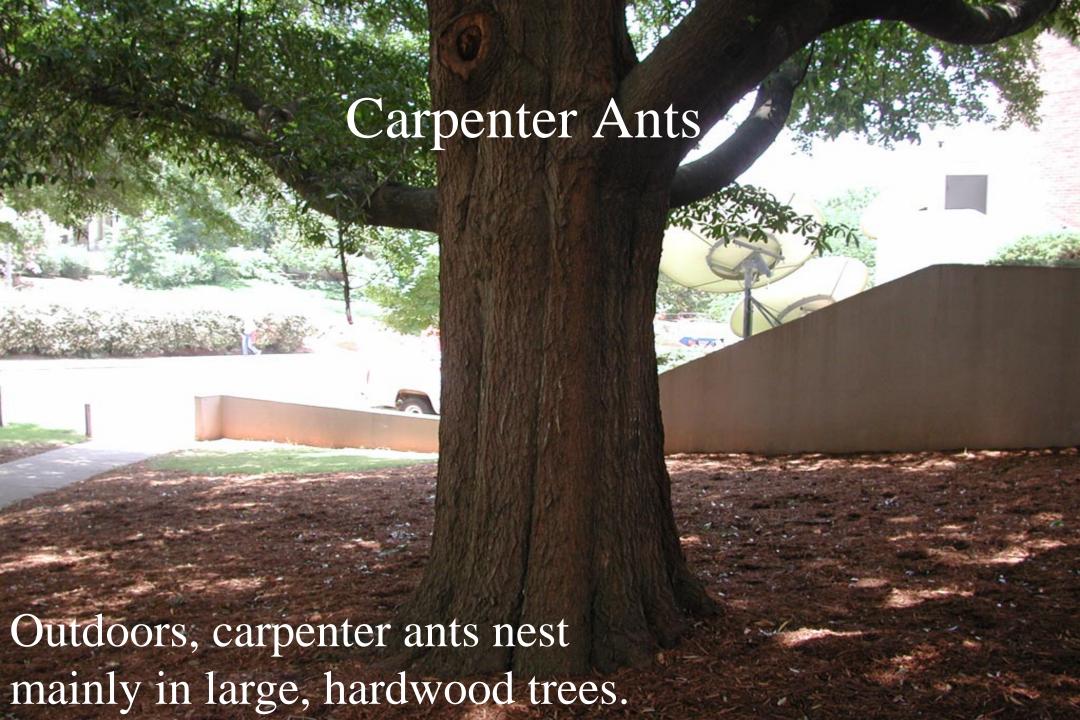


Black Carpenter Ants Florida Carpenter Ants

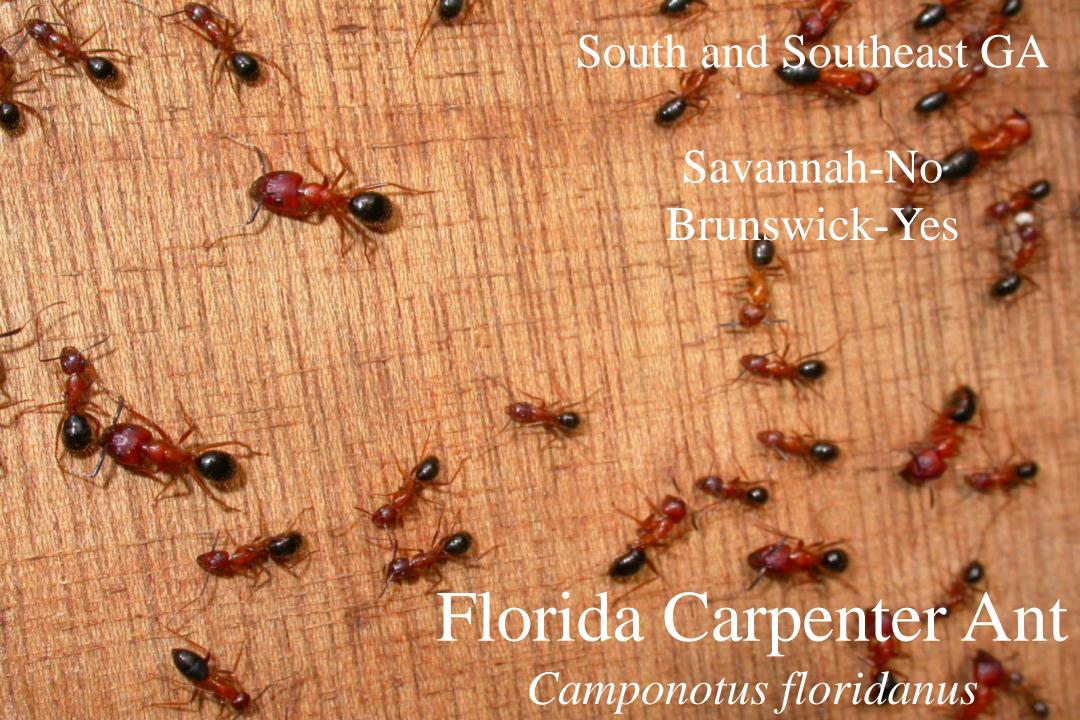
Gel bait placed where ants are foraging at night. Apply the amount that would fit on a nickel.

Liquid baits to a lesser extent.





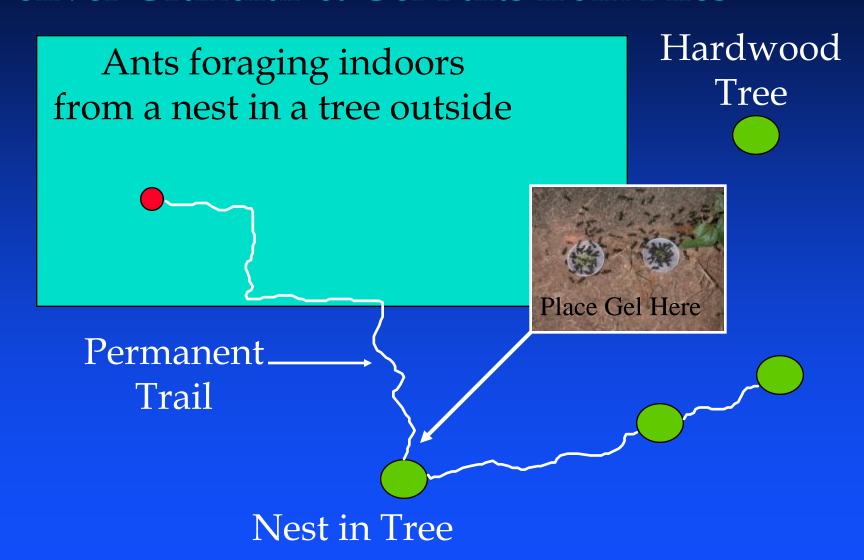






Carpenter Ant Nest Sites

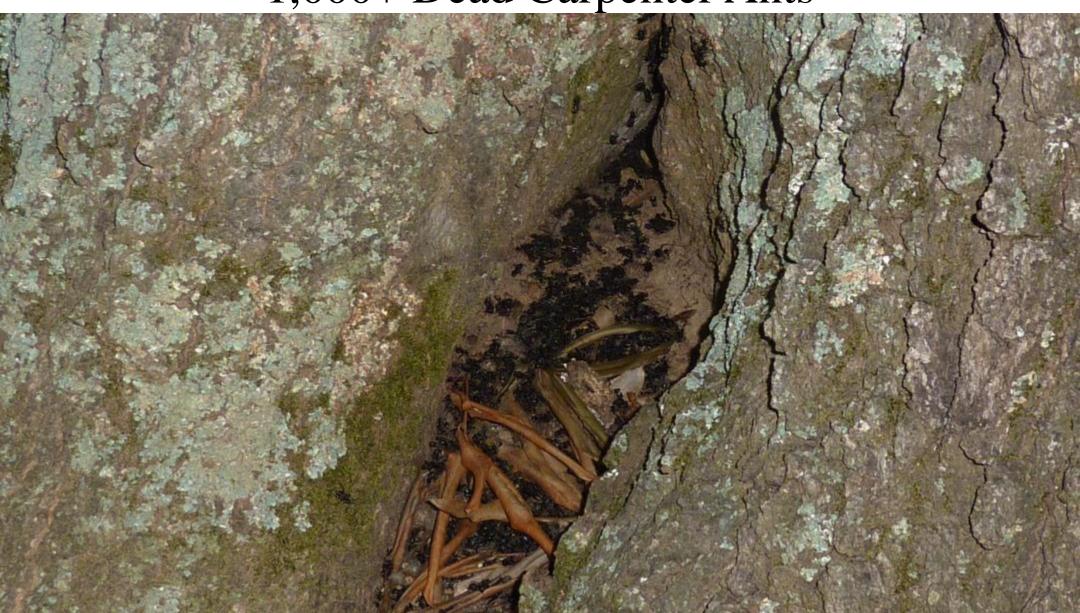
Deliver Granular & Gel Baits from Piles





MaxForce Carpenter Ant Bait Gel (0.001% fipronil)

MaxForce Gel: Colony Baited July 8, 2011 1,000+ Dead Carpenter Ants





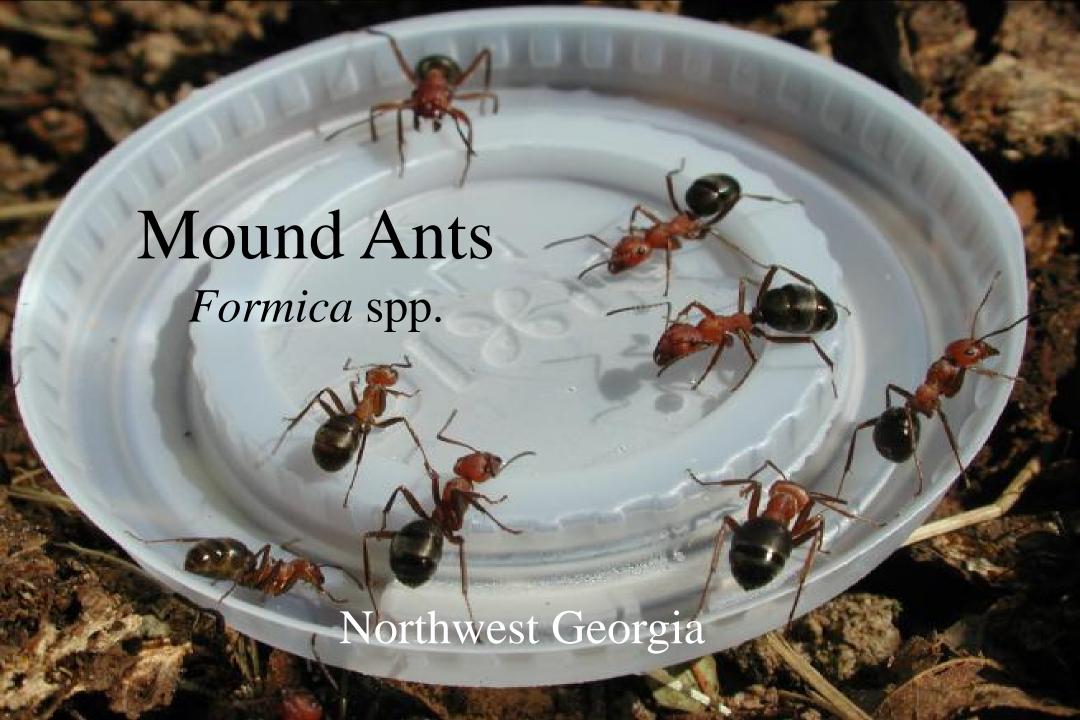
Optigard Carpenter Ant Bait Gel (0.01% thiamethoxam)



Advion Carpenter Ant Bait Gel (0.05% indoxacarb)

Mound Ants Formcia spp.





Mound Ant Baiting:

Advance granules and MaxForce gel









Mound Ant Baiting: Advance Granules and MaxForce Gel



Fire Ants

Texas "Two Step"

Step 1: Broadcast granular bait OR place a handful around (not on top of) each mound. Apply bait in late afternoon, when it's cool and ants are actively foraging. DO NOT disturb mound.

Step 2: One week after bait treatment, locate active mounds and treat each mound with liquid or dust.

Acrobat Ants

Baits inside & outside.

Remove tree branch and wire contacts with building.



- Debris is often chewed insulation and:
 - Can contain insect parts
 - Can contain dead acrobat ants



Once they are inside, it can be difficult to find the colony

 Cutting vegetation away from structures can help reduce access









Pachycondyla chinensis Asian Needle ant

SE Distribution: AL,
 FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Origin: China, Japan





Pachycondyla chinensis Asian Needle ant



The Asian
Needle ant
nests in and
under yard
debris.



Brachymyrmex patagonicus Dark Rover ant

SE Distribution: AL,
 AR, FL, GA, LA, MS,
 NC, SC

Origin: Argentina,
 Neotropics

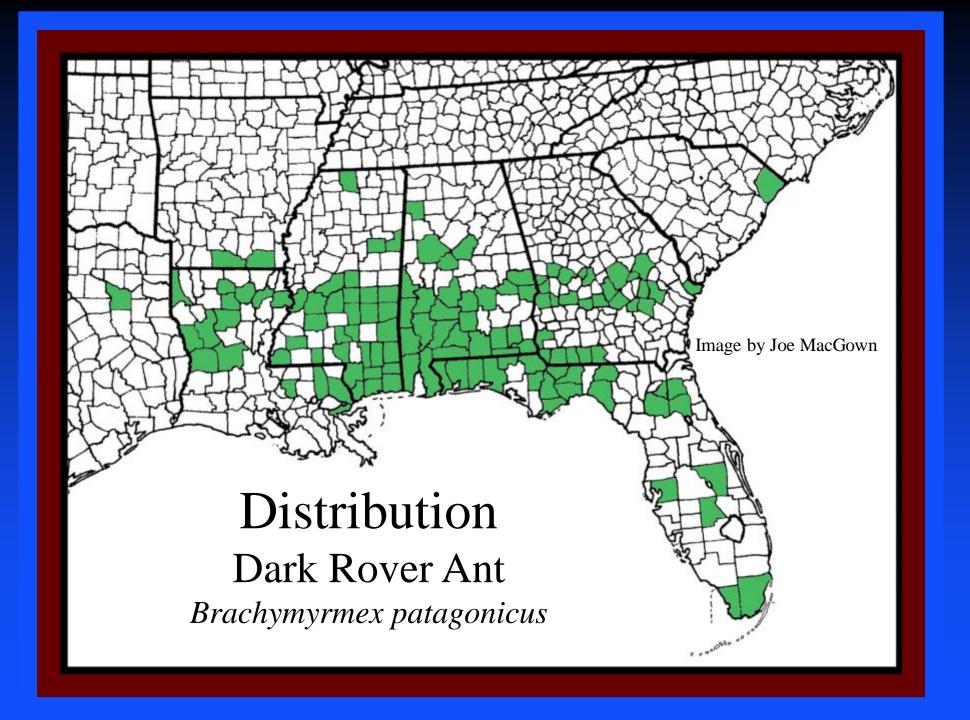






- Native to Argentina; first reported from the U.S. in 1978 in Louisiana.
- Since its initial report, Dark Rover ants have become well established and abundant in the Gulf Coast region, and still appear to be spreading.
- It has become a nuisance pest with occasional large infestations in homes, hospitals, and various other businesses.







Structural Pest Control
Training Center: 2013

Ultrasonic Devices: Do Not Repel or Control Pests!



Recent EPA Label Changes to Impact Perimeter Pest Management

- In California, pesticides in water have led to restrictions on product use around homes.
- The climate of bee protection, including the "Oregon incident", has led to EPA restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids (soon these restrictions will be for all spray products, says EPA).
- Fewer basic manufacturers developing fewer active ingredients (cost prohibitive).