

DO YOUR PART

- ▶ **Acquire** landscaping materials from trusted dealers who diligently inspect their products and treat or destroy materials that contain invasive ants.
- ▶ **Confirm** that the vendor has examined all materials for the presence of tawny crazy ants.
- ▶ **Check** felled trees before mulching or stump grinding; avoid infested areas.
- ▶ **Inspect** all landscaping and building materials before transporting them to any non-infested site.
- ▶ **Hold** landscaping material for 24 to 48 hours on asphalt or cement and inspect for ants before installation.

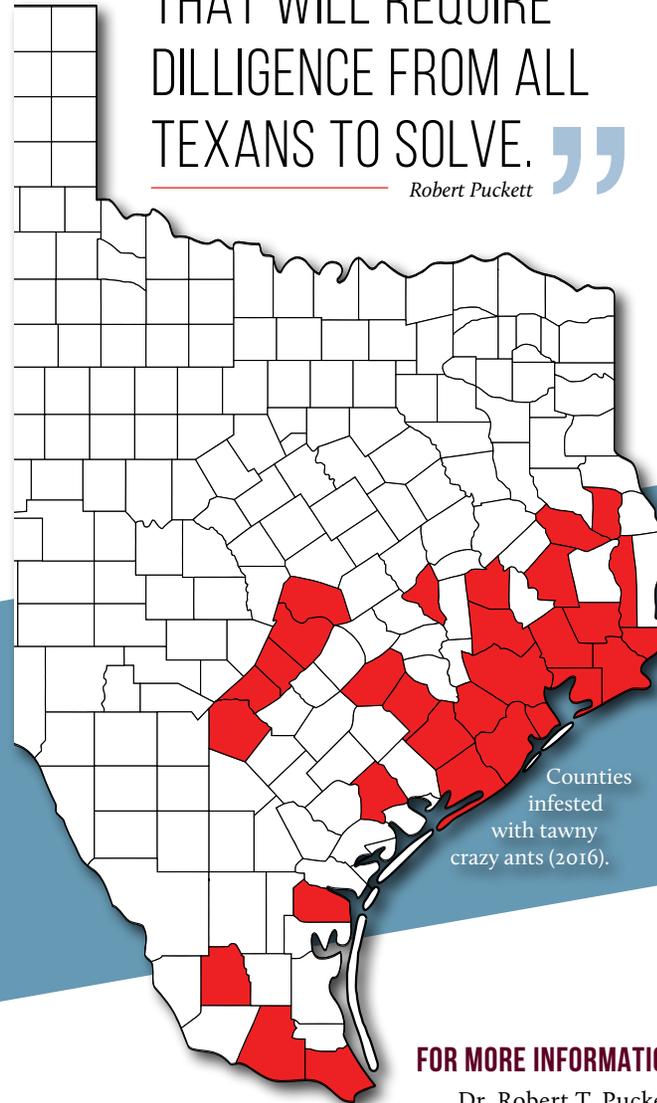
HELP PREVENT
THE SPREAD OF
TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

SEND ANT SPECIMENS TO

Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility
Texas A&M University
2143 TAMU | 2556 F&B Road, Bldg. 1804
College Station, TX 77843-2143

“ TAWNY CRAZY ANTS REPRESENT A **TEXAS-SIZE PROBLEM** THAT WILL REQUIRE DILLIGENCE FROM ALL TEXANS TO SOLVE. ”

Robert Puckett



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

A TEXAS-SIZE PROBLEM

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

ENTO-060
Photo by Danny McDonald



BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

- ▶ Extraordinarily dense populations
 - ▶ Multiple-queen colonies (allows for prolific reproductive capabilities and helps them invade new areas)
 - ▶ Resemblance to (and often confused with) many common native ant species
 - ▶ Loose and erratic foraging trails
- ▶ Nest under any available material such as debris, landscaping objects, and potted plants
 - ▶ No conspicuous mounds (unlike red imported fire ants)
 - ▶ Terrestrial and arboreal (readily move onto trees and shrubs)

Diagram photo by Michael Bently (CC BY-SA 4.0)

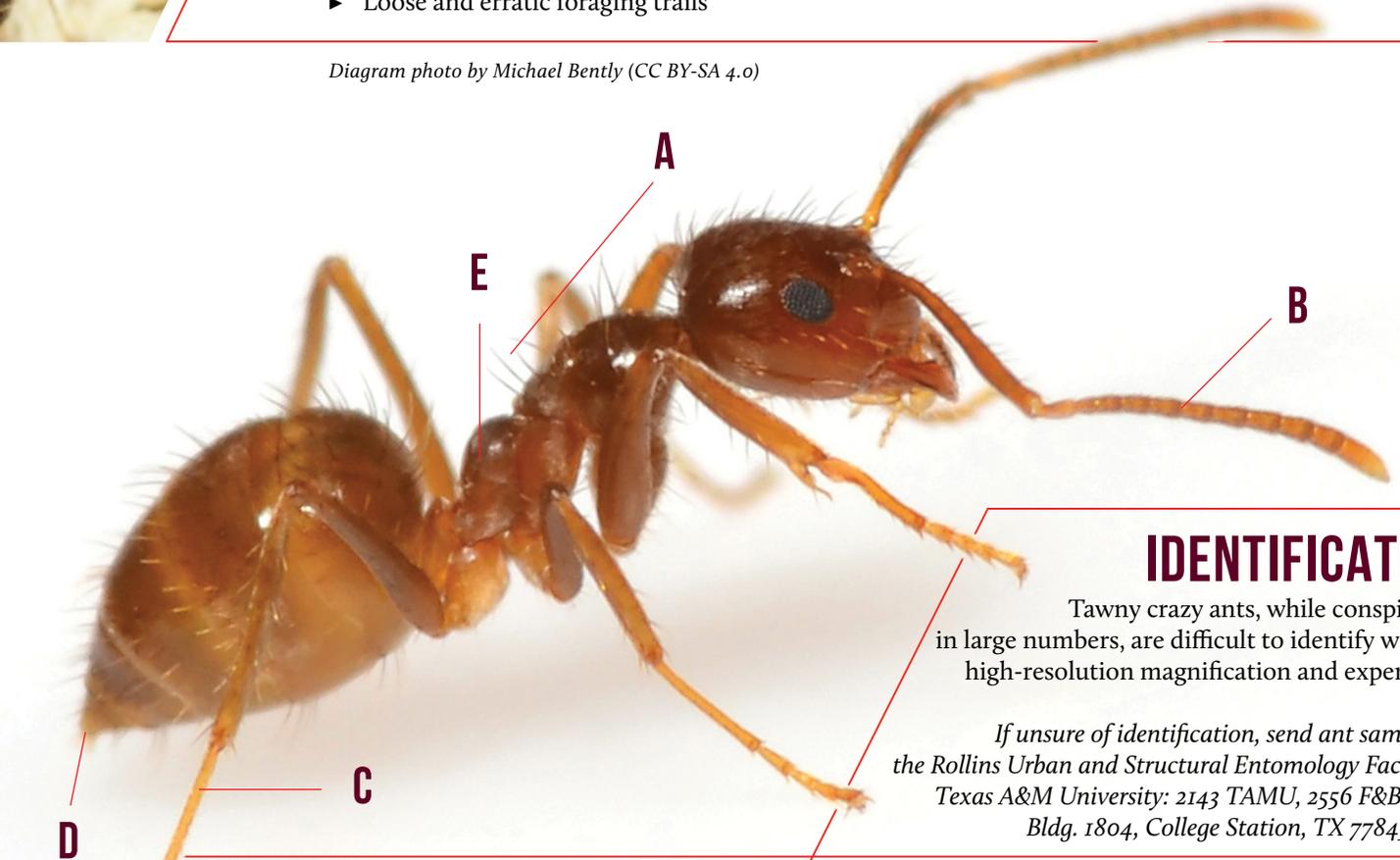
AN INVASIVE PEST ANT SPECIES

Since 2002, tawny crazy ants, *Nylanderia fulva* (formerly Raspberry crazy ants), have expanded their range in Texas to include 30 counties, assisted by humans moving infested materials such as plants, building materials, mulch, yard debris, and hay bales.

In infested urban habitats, tawny crazy ants become an extreme nuisance as they forage around, on, and inside structures. They also damage and destroy electrical components and equipment.

Tawny crazy ants can decrease arthropod diversity (such as insects, spiders, ticks, and centipedes) in the systems they invade.

A serious pest of agriculture, they can infest hay bales and have been known to take over commercial honeybee colonies. They also protect honeydew-producing insects (aphids and scale insects) to feed on the honeydew these pests produce. This interaction helps populations of honeydew-producing insects increase to densities that can cause serious damage to ornamental and agriculturally important plants.



IDENTIFICATION

Tawny crazy ants, while conspicuous in large numbers, are difficult to identify without high-resolution magnification and experience.

If unsure of identification, send ant samples to the Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility at Texas A&M University: 2143 TAMU, 2556 F&B Road, Bldg. 1804, College Station, TX 77843-2143.

Tawny crazy ants are typically 1/8 inch (0.3 cm) long and reddish brown with

- Two pairs of standing macrosetae (stiff hairs or bristles)
- Two extremely long 12-segmented antennae
- Six long legs
- Circle of small hairs at tip of abdomen
- One abdominal node

Rollins Urban and Structural Entomology Facility
Photo by Rob Williams

