



## Biosecurity alert: African black sugar ant

*(Lepisiota incisa)*

### The pest and its impacts

The invasive African black sugar ant is a shiny dark brown ant, about 2 to 3 mm in length, that is native to Africa.

This ant is one of several invasive introduced ant species that are able to form super colonies by building interconnected nests that can spread for hundreds of square kilometres. These ants can be aggressive toward other ant species, potentially outcompeting and displacing important native ants.



### LOOK for this pest

African black sugar ants are highly suited to Australian conditions. They have a huge potential to establish in a wide variety of habitats, including precious undisturbed bush areas as well as urban commercial areas. Once established, the aggressive behaviour of the ant may disrupt social, commercial, and agricultural activities. The ants have also been known to harvest plastic, indicating a potential to damage electrical infrastructure. While this ant is a significant threat to our environment, it is not harmful to people or pets.

The African black sugar ant is a pest of national significance, and all known infestations are under eradication.

## African black sugar ant in Western Australia

African black sugar ants were first discovered in the Perth suburb of Maddington in 2020. Since that time there have been detections in various suburbs across the Perth metropolitan area as well as the town of Narrogin in the Wheatbelt region.



### REPORT suspicious ants

If you suspect you have African black sugar ants at your property you can report via:



#### Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter  
via app or online  
[mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au)

Pest and Disease Information Service  
(08) 9368 3080  
[padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

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