



## Yellow Ants

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**Description:** Workers are medium sized ants and as their name implies are yellow although some can take on a reddish brown color. **Size:** Workers: 1/16 inch (4mm) or less. Two species of yellow ant occur in Virginia, the Smaller Yellow Ant, *Acanthomyops claviger* (Roger) and the Larger Yellow Ant, *Acanthomyops interjectus* (Mayr), both are in the order Hymenoptera and family Formicidae.

**Habitat:** Yellow ants do not forage for inside houses and are not actual pests but their swarming activity can be alarming. Yellow ants swarm in the fall and spring and appear in large numbers around the outside of houses, usually associated with sidewalks, patios, other concrete slabs, and foundation walls. They also appear in basements. They prefer to nest next to a hard surface such as a rock or foundation. Their nests are in these locations, but go unnoticed for most of the year. They avoid light except when swarming



Yellow ant adults tending larvae. David Cappaert, Michigan State University. Bugwood.org.

**Life Cycle:** They swarm in the spring and fall, and there may be thousands of winged ants produced from one or more nests in the area. It is not uncommon for several nests to swarm at the same time- producing lots of ants!

**Type of Damage:** Yellow ants are not structural pests. They nest in soil or even in wood close to houses, but rarely enter houses in search of food. They do not damage wood.

**Control:** If control is necessary, use some granular insecticide directly on the nest or mound.

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