



PESTANTS

A new threat to Palau

Why are pest ants a problem?

Introduced pest ants are a big threat to the environment and economy of Palau. Pest ants may affect Palau's economy by damaging infrastructure and bothering tourists in natural areas. They may also kill many native animal species. In agricultural areas they reduce plant health and production. They are also a pest around homes and sometimes affect human health. Pest ants make nests in many places, and are easily accidentally transported by people.

1. Singapore Ant (*Monomorium destructor*)



prior to beginning an eradication campaign.

Singapore ants have been found in Ngerkebesang Hamlet in Koror State, and in Hatohobei State. They are known to destroy electrical insulation and electronic equipment such as stereos and televisions. They also bite humans and destroy clothing. A survey is being conducted to determine where else they are located,

2. Yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*)



Yellow crazy ants have not been found in Palau, but they are in some other Pacific Islands. They are very aggressive and kill native animals, and often live in houses.

3. African big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*)



African big-headed ants were recently discovered (December 2004) in Palau. Call Quarantine or OERC if you suspect you have have these ants. They are very aggressive and kill native animals. They are common in houses. The 'soldier' ants have enlarged heads.

What can you do to help?

Pest ants are easily transported by people. You can help by being very careful when transporting anything that might contain ants, such as pot-plants and household items. If you think that you have seen these ants, please call OERC (488-6950) or Quarantine (488-2504/1604).