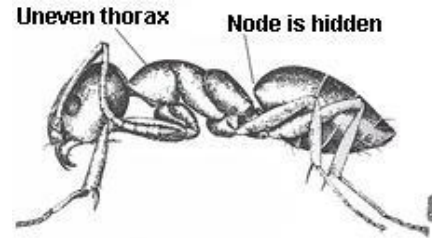




Odorous House Ants (*tapinoma sessile*)



Odorous House Ants are about one eighth of an inch long, dark brown to shiny black. They only have one node, which appears to be hidden. The main identifying feature is its strong odor when crushed.

Odorous House Ants live in shallow nests in soil under stones, wood or debris and may nest in varied habitats, including wooded areas, beaches, wall voids and around water pipes and heaters. A large colony may have as many as 10,000 workers and numerous queens.

Outdoors they feed on both dead and living insects and favor aphids. Inside homes they forage for sweets. Their trails are common along branches of trees, foundations, sidewalks, baseboards and the edges of carpets. When they are disturbed they tend to become erratic with their abdomens raised in the air.

Odorous House Ants do not respond to baits as well as most ants. At times they may prefer sweet baits and at other times protein baits. Elimination may be a slow process. Good sanitation is always beneficial in preventing these ants. Remove potential food sources inside the home by wiping up spills and counter tops and by storing foods in sealed containers.



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