



# The Big Headed Ant Checklist

## Is your home infested with pest ants?

Try this quick quiz to determine if you have Big Headed Ants in your backyard or home. The Big Headed Ant originated in Africa but today is a pest world-wide. It has probably been in Alice Springs since the early 1990s. Also known as Coastal Brown Ants, these ants build up into nuisance numbers, can be an agricultural pest and severely reduce native insect diversity.



### Where are they?

1. Do you have lots of ants inside or near pot plants, paving, concrete, compost, food preparation areas, electrical wiring and goods, and/or irrigation piping?
2. Do you have ant nests with many entrances close to each other (<10cm apart) that together may cover several meters of ground?

### What do they look like?

1. Are the ants small (<5mm)?
2. Are most of the ants pale ginger to light brown?
3. Have you noticed two types of worker ants? There may be many small pale workers accompanied by one larger worker with a very large orange to dark red head.
4. Do the ants look like this under a magnifier?



1mm

### What are they doing?

1. Are there many ants (20 to 50 or more) foraging around the nest or along a trail?
2. Are the ants moving fairly slowly?
3. Have you noticed that many of your native ants are gone?

If you answered 'yes' to five or more of the above questions then you probably have Big Headed Ants in your house / backyard.

### What to do if you have Big Headed Ants...

- ✓ Be a part of the Alice Springs Big Headed Ant Mapping Project
- ✓ Check all soil and plant material entering AND leaving your property - don't be a SPREADER!
- ✓ Consider eradication.



## The Alice Springs Big Headed Ant Mapping Project

Phone CSIRO: 08 8950 7100 or TSN: 08 8952 1541

