

This is a small subfamily comprising 146 species in 4 genera. It is primarily tropical, but a few species in 2 genera enter the southernmost part of the Holarctic Realm. The Pseudomyrmecinae are almost exclusively arboreal and nest in plant cavities. The trophothylax is unique among ant larvae.

MYRMICINAE

Workers.—Monomorphic, dimorphic or polymorphic; dimorphism and polymorphism often very pronounced, the soldier phase with a very large head and strong mandibles. Frontal carinae large, nearly always covering the antennal insertions; nearly always well separated (rarely close together). Antennae of 4-12 segments; several terminal segments often forming a distinct club. Ocelli frequently lacking. Pedicel always 2-segmented. Sting developed in about half the species.

Females.—Winged. Larger than workers.

Males.—Winged. Mandibles usually developed. Antennae nearly always 13-segmented. Genitalia partially retractile (completely so in a few genera of Solenopsidini).

Larvae.—Extremely heterogeneous as to shape, pilosity and mouth parts.

Pupae.—Always naked.

The Myrmicinae are the largest subfamily of Formicidae comprising 2000 species in 155 genera. As might be expected of so large a taxon, they are a cosmopolitan group, which is heterogeneous in both anatomy and habits, ranging from primitive to highly specialized. Among those specialized as to diet are the harvesters and the fungus-growers. The Myrmicinae also include most of the social parasites, which in extreme cases have lost their worker caste.

ANEURETINAE

Workers.—Integument comparatively thin and flexible. Clypeus broad, flat and emarginate below. Frontal carinae very short and only slightly elevated. Eyes below the middle of the sides of the head. Ocelli absent. Antennae 12-segmented; funiculus enlarging distally but not forming a distinct club. Thoracic sutures distinct; thorax impressed in front of the epinotum; metanotal spiracles forming a dorsal projection. Epinotum armed with 2 spines. Pedicel of a single segment, which is long, cylindrical and surmounted behind by a subglobular node. Sting developed. Proventriculus generalized, with simple mobile portal. Cloacal aperture slit-like and terminal.

Females.—Similar to workers, but winged and much larger. Fore wings with first radial crossvein lacking; Mf2 and Rs4 completely contracted. Ocelli well developed.

Males.—Similar to females but much smaller. Antennae 13-segmented, filiform.

Larvae.—Contrasted with Dolichoderinae: with a well developed neck, body hairy, mandibles large, heavily sclerotized, subtriangular (in anterior view) and bearing 2 rather large subapical medial teeth, maxillary palps and galeae paxilliform.

Pupae.—Enclosed in cocoons.