

*Monomorium indicum* Forel, 1902

*Distribution.* An Indian species that was repeatedly recorded in desert margins at NARC (Sweihan) and public gardens in Abu Dhabi and Ruwais, as well as domestic premises in Al Ain.

*Biology and ecology.* This species is of moderate size (2.5–3.5 mm long) and is a nuisance pest in houses, as well as one of the most dominant species in parks in UAE. Large colonies are established consisting of crater-shaped nests, often located around the base of buildings and entrances.

*Monomorium destructor* (Jerdan, 1851)

*Distribution.* The origin of this cosmopolitan species is unknown but it is well established throughout the Middle East (Collingwood, 1985). In UAE it is present in a surprisingly wide range of habitats, especially irrigated gardens and disturbed habitats close to water.

*Biology and ecology.* This species forms large colonies with several hundred workers. Individuals are small with a body length of between 1.5–2.5 mm. It can be a nuisance in and around houses and is known to destroy the insulation of electric cables.

*Pheidole teneriffana* Forel, 1893

*Distribution.* Of unknown origin, this ant is present throughout Arabia in parks and gardens. It occurs on many islands worldwide and is thought to be continually expanding its range. In UAE it was collected at Khor Kalba, Ras Ghanada, Ruwais, Remah and Sweihan.

*Biology and ecology.* Very populous in irrigated gardens and along the coast where it appears to be spreading rapidly, and might replace local species. Most workers are about 3 mm long, however there are also a few larger headed workers, about 5 mm long, that appear to act as guards.

*Solenopsis geminata* (Fabricius, 1804) (Common name: Fire ant)

*Distribution.* A Central American endemic that has been introduced into many countries including Cyprus, the Philippines and the U.S.A. It was collected for the first time in Arabia from Dubai.

*Biology and ecology.* This species is an aggressive predator, which probably alters the local fauna through both predation and competition for food. In the U.S.A. this species, together with the conspecific *S. invicta* (Buren), has dramatically changed the local ant and insect fauna. Its sting causes painful pustules and there is also a low risk of anaphylactic shock. It is an irritating nuisance to horses and cattle in the U.S.A. and poses a similar risk to racing horses and camels in UAE. The body length of workers varies from 3–7 mm.

*Tetramorium bicarinatum* (Nylander, 1846)

*Distribution.* A cosmopolitan tramp species often imported with plant material. It occurs throughout Asia and the New World, is well established in the Southern U.S.A. and may also occur in tropical Africa. The first record for Arabia is from a garden in Fujairah.