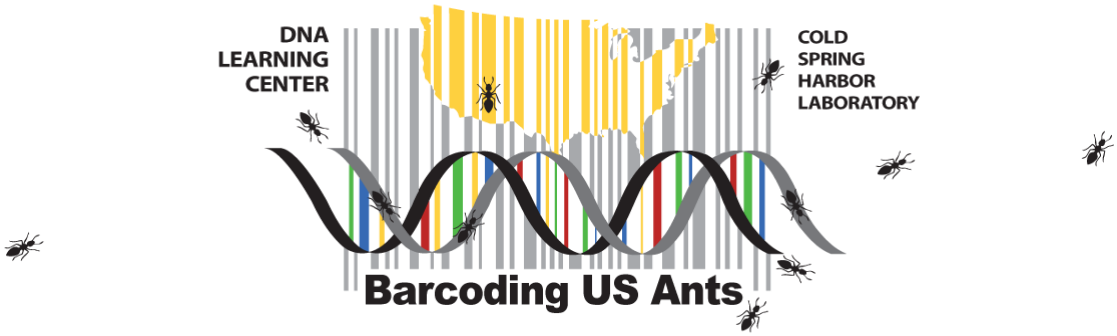


Ant Collection Guide by Genus for US Ant Genera

Prepared by:

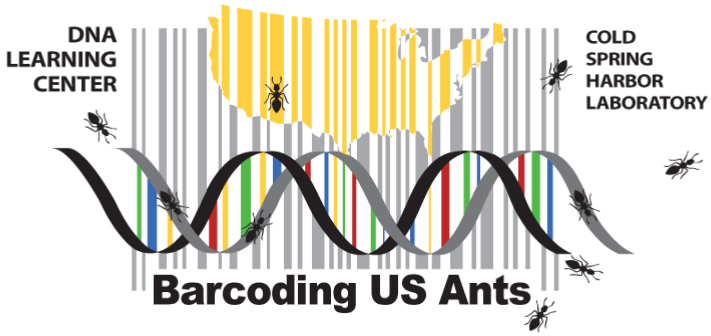
Shawn Dash, Ph.D, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hampton University
Joshua Anderson, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hampton University
Jeffry Petracca, DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

These collection recommendations are made at the generic level, and research should still be done to investigate collection best practices for individual species, as biology/habits can vary among species within a genus.

**For Directed Collection, please refer to the following key for locations from which genera can be collected or specific instructions on the special efforts required to collect certain genera*

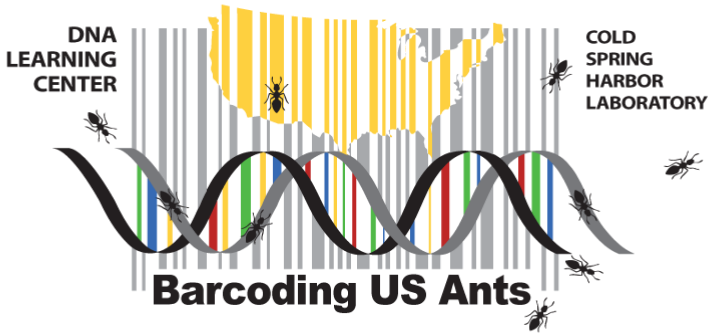
Directed Collection Locations and Special Efforts Key	
a	found under rocks
b	found under logs
c	associated with other ant species – find the host species
d	found while out foraging
e	found in termite nests
f	sift litter from rodent mounds
g	break apart downed logs, trees
h	found in galls, domatia, nuts, and other specialized plant structures
i	found in dead tree limbs
j	found while tending Homopterans (e.g., aphids and scale insects)
k	distinct nests
l	hand fragmentation of soil

Ant Genera and Habitat		**Collection Method**					
Genus	**Habitat (arboreal, soil type, etc.)**	**Directed Collection***	**Litter Sifting**	**Bait Traps**	**Pitfall Traps**	**Sweeping/Beat Sheet**	**Hg vapor/ Blacklight**
Acanthostichus	subterranean	*a, e*	X				



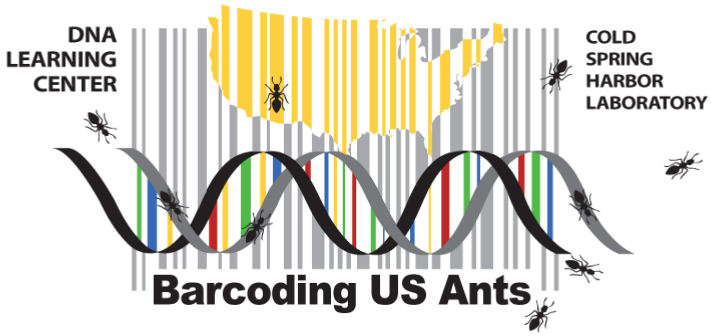
Acromyrmex	desert	*d*					
Aphaenogaster	soil	*b, c, d, f*	X		X		
Brachymyrmex	soil	*a, b, d*	X	X		X	
Camponotus	varied	*a, b, d, g*	X	X	X		X
Carebara	subterranean	*e*	X		X		
Cephalotes	arboreal	*d*				X	
Colobopsis	arboreal	*h, i*				X	X
Crematogaster	diverse arboreal to subterranean	*a, b, c, d*	X	X		X	
Cyphomyrmex	subterranean	*a*	X				
Discothyrea	subterranean	*b*	X				
Dolichoderus	subterranean nesting foraging on plants tending aphids	*a, b, d*	X			X	
Dolopomyrmex	subterranean	*c*	X				
Dorymyrmex	grasslands	*d*	X	X	X		
Eurhopalothrix	subterranean	*b, d*	X				
Forelius	soil			X	X		X
Formica	varied	*a, b, c, d*		X	X	X	
Formicoxenus	specific host for each species	*c*					
Hypoponera	subterranean	*a, b*	X		X		

DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
Email micklos@cshl.edu



Lasius	varied	*a, b, c, d, j*		X			
Leptogenys	varied	*a, b, d*					
Leptothorax	dry forest	*c, h, i*	X				
Liometopum	creosotebush scrub and grasslands, up to sagebrush zone to Ponderosa Pine	*a, d*	X				
Manica	open habitats of the west, various elavations	*a, b, c, d*		X			
Monomorium	subterranean	*a, b, c, h, i*	X	X	X	X	
Mycetomoellerius	subterranean sandy soils	*b, d*	X		X		
Mycetosoritis	open areas	*d*			X		
Myrmecina	subterranean	*a, b, c, d, i*	X		X		
Myrmecocystus	subterranean	*a, d, j*				X	X
Myrmelachista	arboreal	*d, g, i*					
Myrmica	subterranean	*a, b, c, d, g, i*					
Neivamyrmex	subterranean	*a, d, e*			X		X
Nesomyrmex	arboreal	*g, h, i*	X			X	
Novomessor	subterranean	*d, k*				X	
Nylanderia	subterranean	*a, b, c, d*	X	X	X		
Odontomachus	subterranean	*a, b, d*	X				
Pheidole	varied	*a, b, c, d*	X	X	X		

DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
Email micklos@cshl.edu



Pogonomyrmex	subterranean	*a, d, k*				X	X
Polyergus	subterranean	*c*					
Ponera	subterranean	*a, b*	X		X		
Prionopelta	subterranean, leaf litter rotten wood	*a, b*	X				
Proceratium	subterranean	*a, b*	X				
Pseudomyrmex	arboreal	*d*				X	
Rogeria	subterranean	*a, b, g*	X				
Solenopsis	subterranean	*a, b, c, d, e*	X				
Stenamma	subterranean in forested areas	*a, b, d, g, i*	X				
Stigmatomma	nest in soil	*a, b, d*	X		X		
Strumigenys	nesting and living in soil	*a, b, c, d*	X				
Tapinoma	subterranean	*a, b, c, d*	X	X	X	X	
Temnothorax	subterranean aboreal	*a, b, c, d, h*	X	X		X	
Tetramorium	nest in soil	*a, d*	X	X			
Typhlomyrmex	subterranean	*a, g, l*	X				
Veromessor	soil	*a, d, k*			X		

DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
Email micklos@cshl.edu