Jawoyn Country Bush Blitz

Ants (Formicidae)

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Nomenclature and taxonomy used in this report is consistent with:

The Australian Faunal Directory (AFD)

Prof. Alan Andersen's nomenclature and the Darwin ant collection

Contents

Contents 2
List of contributors 3
Abstract 4
1. Introduction 4
2. Methods 4
2.1 Site selection 4
2.2 Survey techniques 4
2.2.1 Methods used at standard survey sites 5
2.3 Identifying the collections 5
3. Results and Discussion 5
3.1 Un-named or not formalised taxa 5
3.2 Species new to science 9
3.3 Introduced species 10
3.4 Threatened species 11
3.5 Range extensions 11
3.6 Genetic information 11
4. Information on species lists 11
5. Information for land managers 11
6. Other significant findings 11
7. Conclusions 12
Acknowledgements 12
References 13
Appendices 15
Appendix 1. List of ant species recorded during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz 15
Appendix 2. Localities of the Jawoyn Bush Blitz and their ant diversity 27
Appendix 3. Habitats, ant species and other invertebrates photographed during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz. 29

List of contributors

List of contributors to this report.			
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Abstract

During the Jawoyn Bush Blitz 2025, we collected 171 ant species from 7 subfamilies and 34 genera. Most of these species (138) are undescribed. Despite decades of ant surveys in the broader region, several species are likely to be here recorded for the first time, although genetic analyses are needed to confirm this. Notably, we found very few introduced species, with only 5 records. Our results show that there is a high ant diversity within the Jawoyn region and that the majority of species collected are undescribed. This fauna requires substantial taxonomic work to better our understanding of its true diversity and how it relates to the rest of the monsoonal tropics as well as the rest of Australia.

1. Introduction

Ants are an ecologically dominant faunal group globally, playing key roles as soil engineers, seed dispersers, nutrient cyclers, predators and prey (Folgarait 1998, Lach et al. 2010, Lengyel et al. 2010, Del Toro et al. 2012). As such, ants are frequently used by land managers as bioindicators of ecological change (Andersen and Majer 2004, Underwood and Fisher 2006). Ants are particularly abundant in tropical savannas (Schultheiss et al. 2022), and their diversity in Australian savannas is among the highest anywhere in the world (Andersen and Vasconcelos 2022).

There have been numerous ecological ant surveys across the NT over the past four decades, with accumulated samples leading the ant collection in Darwin to be the largest in Australia. Ants have been surveyed at the long-term fire/biodiversity plots in Nitmiluk and Kakadu National Parks, and survey results have shown Nitmiluk to be a major centre of ant diversity and endemism. For example, an analysis of the *Melophorus rufoniger* group (previously considered to represent a single, widespread species) revealed seven species from Nitmiluk, all undescribed and none known from elsewhere (Andersen et al. 2020b). Nevertheless, many localities in Nitmiluk and surrounding Jawoyn country have never been sampled because of their remoteness and difficulties with access. Collection of ants on the Jawoyn Bush Blitz was chosen in part to complement the other entomological groups and to fill geographic gaps in what is already a comprehensive collection.

We expected to find at least several dozen species, the majority of them undescribed, and likely many never previously collected. In most cases reliable species delimitations for ants in the NT require DNA barcoding, which is currently in process for the Jawoyn Bush Blitz samples.

2. Methods

2.1 Site selection

Site selection for the Jawoyn Bush Blitz was initially based around suitable freshwater habitats for fish, amphibians and reptiles, as well as sites that were underrepresented for plants in the NT Herbarium. Since there have been few dedicated ant collecting trips to most sites, we aimed to visit as many sites as we could, representing different habitats (e.g., savannas and monsoon forests) such as to maximise our chances of capturing more ant species. Sites were typically allocated each day by the Bush Blitz team, with advice on preferred sites by the broader Bush Blitz scientific team.

2.2 Survey techniques

The standard practice for ant ecology studies in tropical savannas is to use epigaeic pitfall trapping. However, this was feasible at only the 2 sites that could be revisited to collect traps.

At these sites we used 20 pitfalls (4.3-cm diameter) per location, arranged in a 5 x 4 grid with 10 m spacing. Traps were unbaited, contained ethylene glycol to preserve captured ant specimens, and operated for 96 hours.

We hand-collected ants at all sites, looking for foragers on the ground, on vegetation, and under bark, logs and rocks. We used forceps and a pooter to collect specimens. When we found colonies, representative worker ants were brought back to the field lab so that we could photograph them alive.

At sites with sufficient leaf litter, especially monsoon forests, we used leaf-litter extractions to target cryptobiotic species. To do so, we gathered and sifted leaf litter in the field, then brought back the 'leaf litter concentrate' in the field lab. There, we hung the leaf litter in Winkler extractors for three days. Leaf litter extractions are most useful in habitats with abundant and deep leaf litter layers, such as tropical rainforests. They are, nevertheless, useful in monsoonal Australia, especially to collect ants in monsoon forests. As part of our hand collection protocol, we also opportunistically used leaf-litter sifting.

2.2.1 Methods used at standard survey sites

We used hand collection at both standard survey sites (i.e., Manyallaluk and Edith falls). However, we could only use pitfall trapping at Edith falls, because the Manyallaluk site was flooded. We did not use leaf litter extractions for these sites since there was very little leaf litter available.

Where possible, standard survey site protocol for ant surveys could use all methods simultaneously: hand collection, leaf litter extractions and pitfall traps.

2.3 Identifying the collections

All identifications were done by Alan Andersen. Species that could not be confidently named were identified to species group following (Andersen 2000), and species were given codes that apply only to this study.

3. Results and Discussion

Appendix 1 lists all ant species (Formicidae) recorded during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz. Collections made during this Bush Blitz will result in approximately >430 specimen records and several thousands of specimens being added to the MAGNT public collection and 430 records being added to publicly accessible databases: the MAGNT collection and the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

3.1 Un-named or not formalised taxa

Most of the species collected during this survey lack a complete Latin binomial scientific name. This is due to a combination of the region having a high ant diversity, but also that there are no full-time ant taxonomists in the NT. In fact, there is not a single full-time ant taxonomist in the whole of Australia. As such, the vast majority of species require a formal description. Nevertheless, most morphospecies can be attributed to a species group or complex. The terminology we use here is consistent with previous studies in the region, and with the species codes used in the Darwin ant collection. Some of the species listed here have likely never been collected before. Genetic analyses are being undertaken to establish an accurate list.

Table 1 Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa
Iridomyrmex sp. min1 (*minor* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. min2 (*minor* complex)

Table 1 Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa
Iridomyrmex sp. anc1 (*anceps* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. pal1 (*pallidus* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. pal2 (*pallidus* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. har1 (*hartmeyeri* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. exs1 (*exsanguis* complex)
Iridomyrmex sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Iridomyrmex sp. mjo2 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Iridomyrmex sp. mjo3 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Iridomyrmex sp. mjo4 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Iridomyrmex sp. lut1 (*luteoclypeatus* complex)
Ochetellus sp. A
Ochetellus sp. B
Tapinoma sp. A
Papyrius sp. A
Lioponera sp. sin1 (*singularis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. aur1 (*aurata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. aur2 (*aurata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. aur3 (*aurata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. aur4 (*aurata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. aur5 (*aurata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. ret1 (*reticulata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. ret2 (*reticulata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. ret3 (*reticulata* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. con1 (*convexa* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. bor1 (*borealis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. bor2 (*borealis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. bor3 (*borealis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. bor4 (*borealis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. bor5 (*borealis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. ten1 (*tenuis* gp.)
Rhytidoponera sp. dub1 (*dubia* gp.)
Acropyga sp. A
Camponotus sp. rub1 (*rubiginosus* gp.)
Camponotus sp. rub2 (*rubiginosus* gp.)

Table 1 Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa
Camponotus sp. rub3 (*rubiginosus* gp.)
Camponotus sp. den1 (*denticulatus* gp.)
Camponotus sp. cla1 (*claripes* gp.)
Camponotus sp. nov1 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)
Camponotus sp. fie1 (*fieldae* complex)
Camponotus sp. nov2 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)
Camponotus sp. nov3 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)
Camponotus sp. pel1 (*pellax* gp.)
Camponotus sp. ret1 (*reticulatus* gp.)
Melophorus sp. dic1
Melophorus sp. ruf1 (*rufoniger* gp.)
Melophorus sp. ruf2 (*rufoniger* gp.)
Melophorus sp. cas 1 (*castaneus* gp.)
Nylanderia sp. A
Nylanderia sp. B
Nylanderia sp. C
Nylanderia sp. D
Opisthopsis sp. A
Paraparatrechina sp. A
Paraparatrechina sp. B
Paraparatrechina sp. C
Paraparatrechina sp. D
Paraparatrechina sp. E
Polyrhachis sp. nr. gab
Polyrhachis sp. nr. gab2
Polyrhachis sp. nr. gab3
Polyrhachis sp. app1 (*appendiculata* gp.)
Polyrhachis sp. obt1
Polyrhachis sp. inc1 (*inconspicua* gp.)
Cardiocondyla sp. A
Cardiocondyla sp. B
Carebara sp.
Crematogaster sp. aus1 (*australis* complex)
Crematogaster sp. que1 (*queenslandica* complex)
Crematogaster sp. lae1 (*laeviceps* gp.)

Table 1 Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa
Crematogaster sp. lae2 (*laeviceps* gp.)
Crematogaster sp. lae3 (*laeviceps* gp.)
Crematogaster sp. C1
Crematogaster sp. con1 (*cornigera* gp.)
Chelaner sp. ins1 (*insolescens* gp.)
Chelaner sp. ins2 (*insolescens* gp.)
Chelaner sp. ins3 (*insolescens* gp.)
Meranoplus sp. A
Meranoplus sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Meranoplus sp. uni1 (*unicolor* complex)
Meranoplus sp. aja1 (*ajax* gp.)
Meranoplus sp. pub1 (*pubescens* gp.)
Meranoplus sp. C1
Meranoplus sp. aur1 (*aureolus* gp.)
Meranoplus sp. aur2 (*aureolus* gp.)
Monomorium sp. and1 (*andersini* complex)
Monomorium sp. car1 (*carinatum* gp.)
Monomorium sp. car2 (*carinatum* gp.)
Monomorium sp. nig1 (*nigrius* gp.)
Monomorium sp. nig2 (*nigrius* gp.)
Monomorium sp. nig3 (*nigrius* gp.)
Monomorium sp. nig4 (*nigrius* gp.)
Monomorium sp. nig5 (*nigrius* gp.)
Monomorium sp. lae1 (*laeve* gp.)
Monomorium sp. lae2 (*laeve* gp.)
Monomorium sp. lae3 (*laeve* gp.)
Monomorium sp. lae4 (*laeve* gp.)
Monomorium sp. lae5 (*laeve* gp.)
Solenopsis sp. A
Solenopsis sp. B
Solenopsis sp. C
Pheidole sp. amp1 (*ampla* gp.)
Pheidole sp. amp2 (*ampla* gp.)
Pheidole sp. amp3 (*ampla* gp.)
Pheidole sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Pheidole sp. mjo2 (*mjobergi* gp.)
Pheidole sp. B1
Pheidole sp. E1

Table 1 Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa
Pheidole sp. F1
Pheidole sp. J1
Pheidole sp. nr. *impressiceps*
Pheidole sp. var1 (*variabilis* gp.)
Pheidole sp. var2 (*variabilis* gp.)
Pheidole nr. *dispar*
Pheidole sp. A1
Pheidole sp. A2
Tetramorium sp. str1 (*striolatum* gp.)
Tetramorium sp. str2 (*striolatum* gp.)
Tetramorium sp. str3 (*striolatum* gp.)
Tetramorium sp. str4 (*striolatum* gp.)
Tetramorium sp. str5 (*striolatum* gp.)
Tetramorium sp. str6 (*striolatum* gp.)
Anochetus sp. gra1 (*graeffei* gp.)
Anochetus sp. D
Anochetus sp. E
Ponera sp. A
Hypoponera sp. A
Hypoponera sp. B
Odontomachus sp. nr. *turneri*
Odontomachus sp. ruf1 (*ruficeps* gp.)
Pseudoneoponera sp. A
Pseudoneoponera sp. B
Pseudoneoponera sp. C

3.2 Species new to science

In this report, ‘species new to science’ means species that were not recognised by Western science before this Bush Blitz.

As mentioned before, there are likely several of our species’ records that will represent species never collected before. However, due to the poor state of ant taxonomy in the region and the existence of many species’ complexes, genetic analyses are being undertaken to establish the list of entirely new records. One species that we confidently say is new is *Pheidole* nr. *dispar*. This is because its closest, *Pheidole dispar*, is dimorphic, meaning it has two castes: workers and soldiers. In contrast, *Pheidole* nr *dispar* is trimorphic, as it has workers, media and soldiers (see Appendix 3). This is extremely rare in the genus *Pheidole*. We are currently undertaking genetic analyses with specimens of both species, with the aim to publish a taxonomic paper describing *Pheidole* nr *dispar*.

Table 2. Species new to science	
Species	**Comment**
Pheidole nr. *dispar*	This species differs from *P. dispar* by having a trimorphic worker caste, a very rare occurrence in the genus *Pheidole*.

3.3 Introduced species

In this report, 'species new to science' means species that were not recognised by Western science before this Bush Blitz.

Very few introduced species were found in this survey. Most records are from urban environments (Katherine) or near developments (e.g., near cement paths and parking lot in Edith falls). However, we found introduced species in Standard site 1, which was in a seemingly pristine savanna. The introduced species there may have come from the Manyallaluk community nearby. Lastly, we found two introduced species from site 153, which suggests some impact on its ecological integrity compared to the other sites. The standard site near Manyallaluk as well as Edith falls are near human constructions and as such are likely sources of introduced species. If possible, they should be monitored for introduced species and controlled for their eradication. Site 153 was the only remote site with introduced species. It is encouraging that so few remote sites had introduced species. However, if possible, site 153 and its surroundings should be monitored to establish if the introduced species found there are more widespread. If possible, these populations should be eradicated to prevent the further spread of introduced species.

Table 3. Introduced species recorded			
Introduced species	**Location sighted/observed**	**Indication of abundance**	**Comments**
Paratrechina longicornis	Edith falls, Standard site 1 nr Manayallakuk	2 thriving colonies found	Collection in Edith was near a road, but in Manyallaluk it was found on trees in a 'pristine' habitat but near community
Solenopsis geminata	Bush Blitz lab in Katherine	Few workers found	Location was in an urban area
Trichomyrmex mayri	Edith falls, site 153	Unclear	Sampled near cement path in Edith, but also found in a 'pristine' habitat (site 153)
Tetramorium bicarinatum	Standard site 1 nr Manayallakuk	One Colony found	Sampled on tree in 'pristine' habitat but near community
Tetramorium lanuginosum	Site 153	Unclear	found in a 'pristine' habitat (site 153)

3.4 Threatened species

There are no threatened ant species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 for the NT. However, since the state of ant taxonomy in the region is poor, it is impossible to know which species may be at risk. It is likely that some species have short ranges or are rare, because many have been collected only once. Few ant species are regarded as threatened internationally (e.g., by the IUCN), except for species of social parasites, which are almost always extremely rare even when their hosts are common. This may also be because we lack robust data on the species distribution of most ant species.

3.5 Range extensions

We currently cannot elaborate on range extensions as we need to await bar-coding results to confirm species identifications.

3.6 Genetic information

We are currently bar-coding the majority of undescribed ant species to further expand Alan Andersen's library of genetic ant data. Once we obtain these results, we will be able to identify with confidence which species were collected for the very first time during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz.

4. Information on species lists

Ant taxonomy in monsoonal Australia is poorly studied, with most species being undescribed. There are many species complexes with dozens and even hundreds of undescribed species (Oberprieler et al. 2018, Andersen et al. 2020a, 2020b, 2022, 2023a, 2023b, 2024, 2025). The recent radiation and extremely high diversity of the ant fauna in monsoonal Australia makes taxonomic revisions a daunting task. However, this work is crucial, as the region is not currently recognised as a biodiverse region for ants (Kass et al. 2022). This is despite the fact that monsoonal Australia may in fact have as many or more ant species than the Amazon basin.

5. Information for land managers

Our results identified several sites of importance for invasive species - this is key information for land managers, as surveying these sites and their surroundings, as well as taking eradication measures, will be key to safeguard native ant communities. The sites most affected by invasive ants were, unsurprisingly, urban (Katherine) or near settlements (Manyallaluk) and infrastructure (Edith Falls). This indicates that urbanized environments likely act as a source of invasive species for the nearby habitats. Thus, if land managers could eradicate pest species in urban regions it would help limit the spread of invasive species within natural habitats. Especially worthy of mention is our findings of two invasive species in the relatively remote site 153. This site and its surroundings would gain from being surveyed in depth for invasive ants to assess how established are the introduced ants in this natural habitat.

6. Other significant findings

While sampling ants, we found an 'ant cemetery' where dozens of ants had succumbed to zombie-ant fungi (*Ophiocordyceps*). Mycologist Sherie Bruce also found zombie-ant fungi at an additional sight. These findings were featured in an *Australian Geographic* publication (Huxley 2025). Furthermore, they feature in a short communication submitted by Francois

Brassard to the scientific journal *Austral Entomology*. These records represent a new host-association and potentially a new species of zombie-ant fungi.

7. Conclusions

The Nitmiluk and Jawoyn region of the Northern Territory has a diverse ant fauna, while still having few occurrences of invasive species. However, the vast majority of the ant species we found have no formal species descriptions. There is a clear need for more taxonomic expertise locally, as well as in the broader monsoonal zone. We hope this report will help showcase the region's biodiversity and motivate further research.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Bush Blitz team for this opportunity to investigate the ant fauna of the Jawoyn region. We thank the Jawoyn and Warddekken rangers for their help in the field and for sharing their knowledge. We thank Sherie Bruce for sharing her knowledge and findings about fungi, including the ant-infecting *Ophiocordyceps*.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. List of ant species recorded during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. min1 (*minor* complex)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, S2, HC111, HC62, KA19, KA25, HC97, HC79
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. min2 (*minor* complex)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC132, KA18, HC02
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. anc1 (*anceps* complex)	Tropical tyrant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48, HC53, HC92, HC09, KA25, HC65
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. pal1 (*pallidus* complex)	Pale tyrant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC124, HC73, HC101, KA83, KA18, KA25, KA77
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. pal2 (*pallidus* complex)	Pale tyrant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC46, HC92
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. har1 (*hartmeyeri* complex)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC110, HC42, HC43, HC101
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. exs1 (*exsanguis* complex)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC117, HC28
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2, S1, HC34, HC80
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. mjo2 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC116, HC38
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. mjo3 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC19, HC73, HC84, HC06, HC23
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. mjo4 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA25
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex sanguineus*	Northern meat ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC40, HC03, HC19, HC92, KA25, HC75

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex reburrus*	Bearded meat ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC19, HC77
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex* sp. lut1 (*luteoclypeatus* complex)	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC84
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex obscurus*	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC107, HC51, HC101, KA19, KA18, KA19
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex anteroinclinus*	Tyrant ants (*Iridomyrmex* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC71
Dolichoderinae	*Iridomyrmex rufoinclinus*	Northern bearded tyrant ants	no	no	no	no	no	HC65, HC73
Dolichoderinae	*Ochetellus* flavipes	Spinifex Ant	no	no	no	no	no	S2, HC134, HC105, HC101
Dolichoderinae	*Ochetellus* sp. A	NA	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48
Dolichoderinae	*Ochetellus* sp. B	NA	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA19
Dolichoderinae	*Froggattella kirbyi*	Common Froglet Ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC126, HC125, KA83
Dolichoderinae	*Tapinoma* sp. A	Pedicel ants (*Tapinoma* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC12
Dolichoderinae	*Papyrius* sp. A	Red cocktail ants (*Papyrius* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC114, HC65, HC64, HC44, KA18, KA19
Dorylinae	*Lioponera* sp. sin1 (*singularis* gp.)	Carinate Cannibal Ant	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC131
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. aur1 (*aurata* gp.)	Lesser-horned pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2, KA19, S1, HC116, HC28, HC19, HC22, KA83
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. aur2 (*aurata* gp.)	Lesser-horned pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC113, HC39, HC64, HC75, HC100, KA25, KA19, KA77
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. aur3 (*aurata* gp.)	Lesser-horned pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC129, HC65, KA83, HC34
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. aur4 (*aurata* gp.)	Lesser-horned pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC77

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. aur5 (*aurata* gp.)	Lesser-horned pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA83
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. ret1 (*reticulata* gp.)	Netted pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1,
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. ret2 (*reticulata* gp.)	Netted pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC132, KA18
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. ret3 (*reticulata* gp.)	Netted pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC19
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. con1 (*convexa* gp.)	Convex pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC125, KA83
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. bor1 (*borealis* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC121, HC99
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. bor2 (*borealis* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC113, HC67, HC57, HC64, KA25, HC85, HC75, HC84, HC92, KA77
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. bor3 (*borealis* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC21, HC27
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. bor4 (*borealis* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC33
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. bor5 (*borealis* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA19
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. ten1 (*tenuis* gp.)	Delicate pony ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC132, KA25
Ectatomminae	*Rhytidoponera* sp. dub1 (*dubia* gp.)	Pony ant (*Rhytidoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA19
Formicinae	*Acropyga* sp. A	Root-aphid ants (*Acropyga* ants)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC98, HC47
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. rub1 (*rubiginosus* gp.)	Coconut sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC57, HC59, HC26, KA83, KA18

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. rub2 (*rubiginosus* gp.)	Coconut sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC130, HC129, HC20
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. rub3 (*rubiginosus* gp.)	Coconut sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC39
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. den1 (*denticulatus* gp.)	Money-box sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC116, HC125, HC129, KA83
Formicinae	*Camponotus setosus*	Sugar ants (*Camponotus* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC113, HC120, KA83, HC118
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. cla1 (*claripes* gp.)	Pale-legged sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC128, KA77
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. nov1 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)	Northern sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC109, HC30, HC98
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. fie1 (*fieldae* complex)	Sugar ants (*Camponotus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC109, HC43, HC39, KA25
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. nov2 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)	Northern sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC16, HC101, HC44
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. nov3 (*novaehollandiae* gp.)	Northern sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC101
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. pel1 (*pellax* gp.)	Silver sugar ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC92, KA77, KA18
Formicinae	*Camponotus* sp. ret1 (*reticulatus* gp.)	Netted plug ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC49
Formicinae	*Melophorus* sp. dic1	Furnace ants (*Melophorus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA18
Formicinae	*Melophorus* sp. ruf1 (*rufoniger* gp.)	Furnace ants (*Melophorus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2, S1
Formicinae	*Melophorus* sp. ruf2 (*rufoniger* gp.)	Furnace ants (*Melophorus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC116, KA83
Formicinae	*Melophorus* sp. cas 1 (*castaneus* gp.)	Furnace ants (*Melophorus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC41

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Formicinae	*Nylanderia* sp. A	Crazy ants (*Nylanderia* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC21, HC111, HC20, HC31, HC05, HC75, HC33, BB25LL01
Formicinae	*Nylanderia* sp. B	Crazy ants (*Nylanderia* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC134, HC130, KA77, BB25LL02
Formicinae	*Nylanderia* sp. C	Crazy ants (*Nylanderia* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC13, KA19
Formicinae	*Nylanderia* sp. D	Crazy ants (*Nylanderia* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC44
Formicinae	*Oecophylla smaragdina*	Green tree ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC52, HC48, HC18, HC44, BB25LL02
Formicinae	*Opisthopsis haddoni*	Savanna strobe ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC48, HC14, HC75, HC64, BB25LL01
Formicinae	*Opisthopsis rufonigra*	Strobe ants (*Opisthopsis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC62, HC115, HC43, HC92, KA18, KA19, KA25, KA77
Formicinae	*Opisthopsis* sp. A	Strobe ants (*Opisthopsis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC52, HC56, KA19, KA83, BB25LL02
Formicinae	*Paraparatrechina* sp. A	Baby parrot ants (*Paraparatrechina* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2
Formicinae	*Paraparatrechina* sp. B	Baby parrot ants (*Paraparatrechina* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC113
Formicinae	*Paraparatrechina* sp. C	Baby parrot ants (*Paraparatrechina* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC54, HC42, HC69, HC59, KA77, HC77, HC05, HC63, HC75, KA25, KA83
Formicinae	*Paraparatrechina* sp. D	Baby parrot ants (*Paraparatrechina* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC53
Formicinae	*Paraparatrechina* sp. E	Baby parrot ants (*Paraparatrechina* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC76
Formicinae	*Paratrechina* longicornis	Longhorn crazy ant	no	no	no	yes	yes	HC10, HC01, HC06

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis gab*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC132, HC106, HC62, HC57, HC64, HC24, HC59, HC75, HC78, KA19, KA25, KA77, KA83, KA18
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. nr. gab	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC123
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. nr. gab2	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC112, HC64
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. nr. gab3	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC57
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis senilis*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC17, HC34, HC14, HC19, KA83, KA77
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. app1 (*appendiculata* gp.)	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC34
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. obt1	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC20
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis melaneura*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC43, HC129, HC39, HC34, HC83, HC77, HC19
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis anderseni*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC51, HC101
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis schenkï*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC113, HC101, HC20
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis nourlangie*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC67, HC54, HC53, HC64, HC77
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis* sp. inc1 (*inconspicua* gp.)	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC34, KA25
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis pseudothrinax*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC129, HC19, KA19
Formicinae	*Polyrhachis trapezoidea*	Spiny ants (*Polyrhachis* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	KA19, K83
Myrmicinae	*Cardiocondyla* sp. A	Sneaking ants (*Cardiocondyla* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC57
Myrmicinae	*Cardiocondyla* sp. B	Sneaking ants (*Cardiocondyla* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC75
Myrmicinae	*Cardiocondyla wroughtonii*	Yellow Sneaking Ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC49

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Myrmicinae	*Carebara* sp.	Marauder and thief ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC45
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. aus1 (*australis* complex)	Valentine ants (*Crematogaster* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC115, HC15, KA19
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. que1 (*queenslandica* complex)	Little valentine ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC109
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. lae1 (*laeviceps* gp.)	Common valentine ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. lae2 (*laeviceps* gp.)	Common valentine ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC88
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. lae3 (*laeviceps* gp.)	Common valentine ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC25
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. C1	Valentine ants (*Crematogaster* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC52
Myrmicinae	*Crematogaster* sp. con1 (*cornigera* gp.)	Valentine ants (*Crematogaster* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC11
Myrmicinae	*Chelaner* sp. ins1 (*insolescens* gp.)	Monsoonal mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC39
Myrmicinae	*Chelaner* sp. ins2 (*insolescens* gp.)	Monsoonal mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC65
Myrmicinae	*Chelaner* sp. ins3 (*insolescens* gp.)	Monsoonal mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC69
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus minimus*	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC101, KA18, KA83
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. A	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC74
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Chocolate shield ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC78, HC108, KA19
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. uni1 (*unicolor* complex)	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC25, HC22

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. aja1 (ajax gp.)	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC54, HC101
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. pub1 (*pubescens* gp.)	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC91, HC92, KA25
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. C1	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA18
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. aur1 (*aureolus* gp.)	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA83
Myrmicinae	*Meranoplus* sp. aur2 (*aureolus* gp.)	Shield ants (*Meranoplus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC06
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. and1 (*andersini* complex)	Mono ants (*Monomorium* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. car1 (*carinatum* gp.)	Angled mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. car2 (*carinatum* gp.)	Angled mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA77, KA25, KA19, BB25LL01
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. nig1 (*nigrius* gp.)	Black mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2, S1, HC53, HC81, KA77, HC86
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. nig2 (*nigrius* gp.)	Black mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1, HC27
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. nig3 (*nigrius* gp.)	Black mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48, HC59
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. nig4 (*nigrius* gp.)	Black mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC19
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. nig5 (*nigrius* gp.)	Black mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC33
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae1 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC111, HC134, HC68
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae2 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC62

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae3 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC46, HC58
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae4 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC102, HC61, KA83
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae5 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC06
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium* sp. lae6 (*laeve* gp.)	Yellow mono ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL01
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium topendi*	Smiling mono ants (*M. rothsteini* group)	no	no	no	no	no	HC119, HC123, HC34, KA83
Myrmicinae	*Monomorium maryannae*	Smiling mono ants (*M. rothsteini* group)	no	no	no	no	no	HC67
Myrmicinae	*Solenopsis* sp. A	Thief ants (*Solenopsis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC35
Myrmicinae	*Solenopsis* sp. B	Thief ants (*Solenopsis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL01
Myrmicinae	*Solenopsis* sp. C	Thief ants (*Solenopsis* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL02
Myrmicinae	*Solenopsis* geminata	Ginger ants	no	no	no	yes	yes	H96
Myrmicinae	*Strumigenys* sp. A	Snappy detritus ants (*Strumigenys* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL02
Myrmicinae	*Trichomyrmex mayri*	NA	no	no	no	yes	yes	HC64, HC06
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. amp1 (*ampla* gp.)	Seedharvesting ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. amp2 (*ampla* gp.)	Seedharvesting ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC114, HC130
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. amp3 (*ampla* gp.)	Seedharvesting ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC134, HC95
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. mjo1 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Savanna big-headed ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC129

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. mjo2 (*mjobergi* gp.)	Savanna big-headed ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC23
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. B1	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC129
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. E1	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. F1	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC95
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. J1	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA83
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. nr. *impressiceps*	Giant big-headed ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48, HC49, HC44
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. var1 (*variabilis* gp.)	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC65, HC34, HC92, HC73, HC29, KA18, HC89
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. var2 (*variabilis* gp.)	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC29
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* nr. *dispar*	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	yes	no	no	no	HC94, KA25
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. A1	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC60
Myrmicinae	*Pheidole* sp. A2	Big-Headed Ants (Genus *Pheidole*)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC77
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str1 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S2, HC73, KA18
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str2 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str3 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str4 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC21
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str5 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC19
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. str6 (*striolatum* gp.)	Common pennant ants	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC30

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium* sp. i1	Pennant ants (*Tetramorium* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC116
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium bicarinatum*	Bicolored pennant ant	no	no	no	yes	yes	HC08
Myrmicinae	*Tetramorium lanuginosum*	Wooly ant	no	no	no	yes	yes	HC64
Ponerinae	*Anochetus paripungens*	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	BB25LL02
Ponerinae	*Anochetus rectangularis*	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC134, KA77
Ponerinae	*Anochetus rufostenus*	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC122, HC103
Ponerinae	*Anochetus* sp. gra1 (*graeffei* gp.)	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC87
Ponerinae	*Anochetus* sp. D	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL01
Ponerinae	*Anochetus* sp. E	Lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL02
Ponerinae	*Ponera* sp. A	Porthole ants (*Ponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	BB25LL02
Ponerinae	*Hypoponera* sp. A	Crypt ants (*Hypoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC134
Ponerinae	*Hypoponera* sp. B	Crypt ants (*Hypoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48
Ponerinae	*Hypoponera* sp. C	Crypt ants (*Hypoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC48
Ponerinae	*Leptogenys adlerzi*	Genial killer ants (*Leptogenys* genus)	no	no	no	no	no	HC127, HC130, HC129
Ponerinae	*Odontomachus* sp. nr. *turneri*	Giant snappy ants (*Odontomachus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC113, HC48, HC65, HC05, HC90, KA83, KA77, KA19, HC20
Ponerinae	*Odontomachus* sp. ruf1 (*ruficeps* gp.)	Giant snappy ants (*Odontomachus* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC134, HC82

Subfamily	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State/Territory Act)	Invasive	Introduced	Sites
Ponerinae	*Pseudoneoponera* sp. A	Foamy ants (*Pseudoneoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	S1
Ponerinae	*Pseudoneoponera* sp. B	Foamy ants (*Pseudoneoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	HC133, HC50, HC66, KA83
Ponerinae	*Pseudoneoponera* sp. C	Foamy ants (*Pseudoneoponera* genus)	TBD	no	no	no	no	KA19
Pseudomyrmecinae	*Tetraponera punctulata*	Savanna black tree ant	no	no	no	no	no	HC52, HC10, HC19,HC85, KA18, KA19

Appendix 2. Localities of the Jawoyn Bush Blitz and their ant diversity

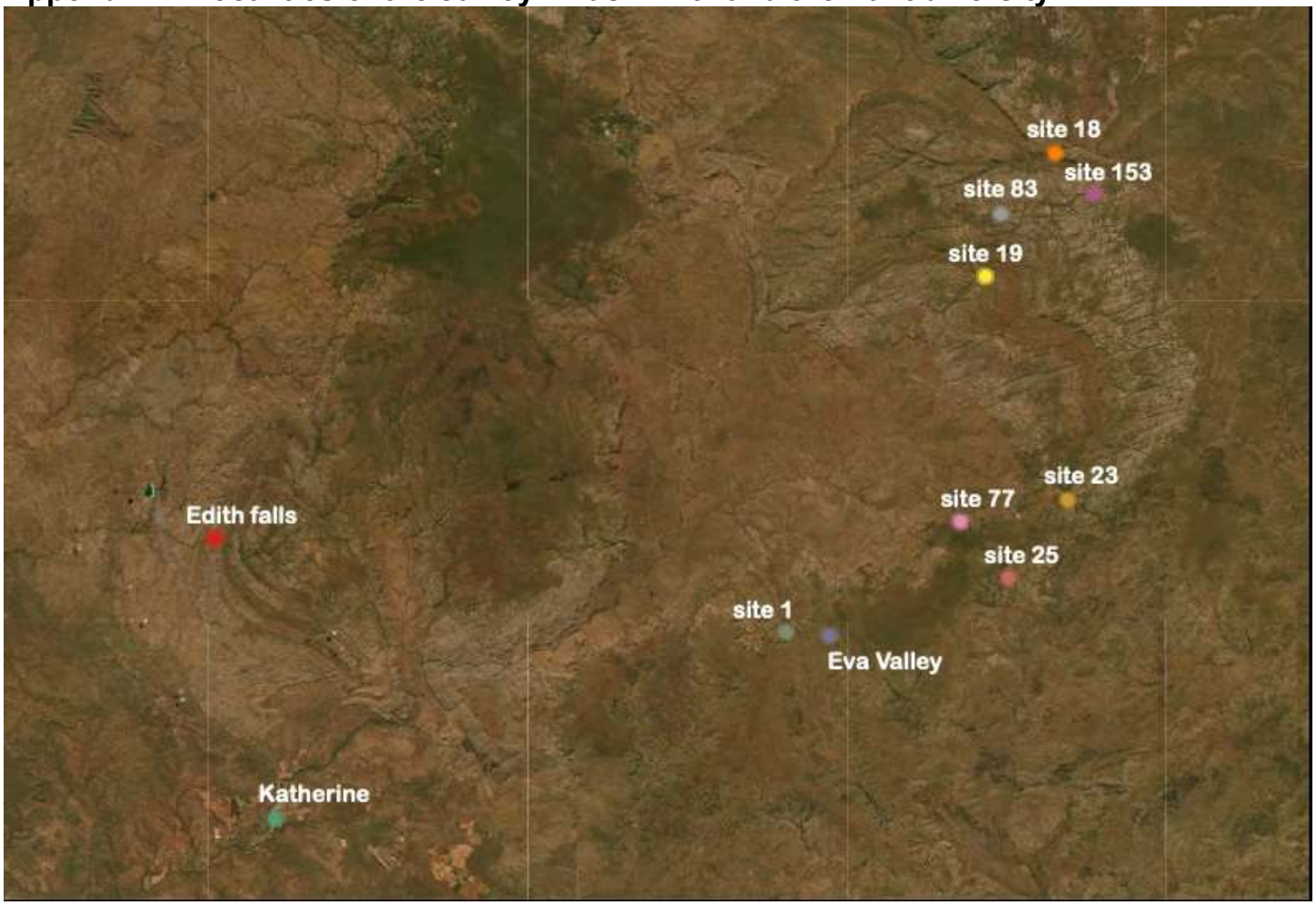


Figure 1 Map of localities where we sampled ants during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz 2025. We found invasive species in Edith falls, Katherine, site 1 and site 153. Figure by Romain Baheux

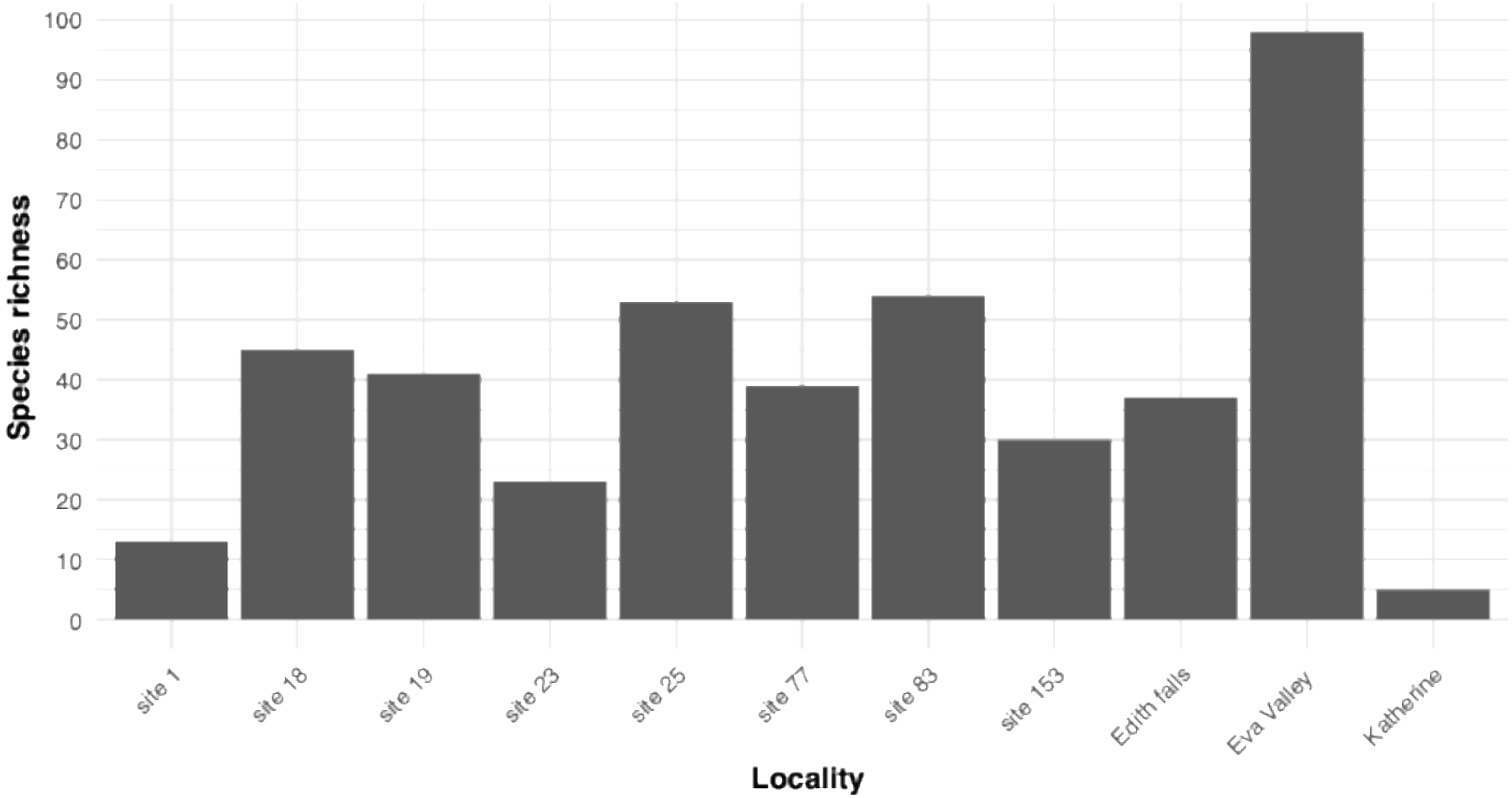


Figure 2 Histogram of species richness for each site sampled during the Bush Blitz. Note that sampling effort was not standardized, with different methods used and some sites sampled more than others. Figure by Romain Baheux

Appendix 3. Habitats, ant species and other invertebrates photographed during the Jawoyn Bush Blitz.



Figure 3 Landscapes and habitats from the Jawoyn region. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 4 Ant worker of the species *Polyrhachis senilis* infected by an *Ophiocordyceps* fungus. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 5 A scorpion and mygalomorph spider found during the Bush Blitz. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 6 Two species of assassin bugs (Reduviidae) found during the Bush Blitz. The species on the left uses sticky substances (e.g. sap). The individual on the left uses its hind leg appendages to lure prey within striking range. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 7 The undescribed and potentially new to science *Pheidole* nr *dispar*. Notice the trimorphic castes, with minor, media and major workers. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 8 Two different species (top and bottom row) of big-headed ants (*Pheidole*) with dimorphic castes (i.e., with minor and major workers). The prey item in the bottom row is a termite. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 9 Two species of shield ants (*Meranoplus*). The name of the genus relates to their mesosomas bearing extensions that form a 'shield'. When threatened, several shield ant species curve into a ball, protecting their legs under their shield. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 10 Foamy ants (*Pseudoneoponera*) produce venom in the form of a string of bubbles. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 11 This is a small dimorphic species of *Carebara*. These ants are rarely encountered alive due to their cryptic habits. These individuals were from a colony found inside a termite mound. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 12 These small Mono ants are from the *Monomorium laeve* group. Workers (on the left) attend and carry larvae. The specimen on the right is a queen. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 13 These are four different species of trap-jaw ants. The first row are species of lesser snappy ants (*Anochetus*), whereas the second row are species of giant snappy ants (*Odontomachus*). The trigger hairs used to release the trap-jaws when touching a prey are visible in the first photo. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 14 The common froglet ant (*Froggattella kirbyi*) is widespread in Australia but rarely encountered. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 15 Root-aphid ants have a cryptic lifestyle, mostly staying underground and getting food by tending aphids. The specimen on the left is a queen while the one on the right is a worker. Photos by François Brassard



Figure 16 This meat ant (*Iridomyrmex*) is collecting honeydew from a caterpillar (Lycaenidae). Photo by François Brassard



Figure 17 The green tree ant (*Oecophylla smaragdina*) is a dominant species in the monsoonal zone. Here, one worker is carrying her nestmate, potentially to a food source. Photo by François Brassard



Figure 18 A worker (left) and queen (right) of a thief ant species (*Solenopsis*). Photo by François Brassard



Figure 19 Crypt ants (*Hypoponera*) are ubiquitous but rarely encountered due to their cryptic habits. This is a female alate. Photo by François Brassard



Figure 20 Some monsoonal mono ants (*Chelaner*) are granivorous. These species often have a concave clypeus to aid holding seeds (see individual on the left). Photos by François Brassard