

PEST: Crazy Raspberry Ants (*Nylanderia pubens*)

BASIC PROFILE: CRA (a.k.a. 'hairy crazy ant') is a growing ant pest in the SE U.S. that nests in pastures and wooded areas but forages in urban settings. Colonies are large with multiple queens. They invade homes and structures and are a nuisance although they do not sting and rarely bite. Adults are reddish-brown and are very small, 2-3mm (~1/16 inch) long, with long legs and long antennae. They feed on plants, foodstuffs, and many other items but can damage electrical wiring, panels and outlets. Their quick movements and erratic behavior earned them the name 'crazy'. A related species, *Paratrechina longicornis* ('crazy ant') is already established in Louisiana.

LDAF ACTIVITY: Natural spread of this ant into Louisiana has occurred into the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. Also, it can move in plants and soil. LDAF will work with LSU personnel as needed and may be asked by USDA to conduct specified surveys. There are no federal quarantines/survey protocols. No quarantine actions are planned. Best management practices will be developed through USDA and LSU.

