

## Big-Headed Ant (*Pheidole megacephala*) Profile



### Pest Status

- The big-headed ant is one of the most widespread and invasive ant species in the world.
- Have been in Australia for over 100 years (origin: Africa).
- Aggressive and territorial, they will exclude, out compete, and attack local ant species.
- Excavate extensively under paving causing destabilisation.
- Occasionally invade buildings when populations outside are very high.

### Description

- Minor workers 1.5 - 2.5mm & major workers 3.5 - 4.5mm in length. Colour varies from light to dark brown, reddish brown or light yellow.
- Two sized workers (dimorphic). Major worker with the big head.
- Mild sting and bite when annoyed.
- No smell when crushed.

### Nesting

- Disturbed soils, under pavers, pot plants and other objects.
- Multi-queened (polygynous) and able to spread by budding off.
- Capable of forming interconnected super-colonies that cover tens of hectares.

### Feeding

- Prefers fats and proteins but will also eat sweet food (and tend aphids).

### Treatment (IPM approach):

- Bait foraging trails.
- Direct nest application (liquid and/or granules).
- Building perimeter (liquid) to prevent ingress.
- Internal C&C to harbourages (aerosol/dust) + bait.
- Hygiene & exclusion.

All products in the FMC general pest range carry an ant registration. Notably Biflex<sup>®</sup> Mikron and Astro<sup>®</sup> also have HACCP approval while along with Biflex<sup>®</sup> Ultra, Biflex<sup>®</sup> Aqua and Fury<sup>®</sup> are registered for internal use. Externally Brigade<sup>®</sup> Granular is a popular option around perimeters, paved and lawn areas and Dragnet<sup>®</sup> Dust offers an excellent option for roof voids and wall cavities.

For further information please contact your local FMC representative or visit [fmcaustralasia.com.au](http://fmcaustralasia.com.au)