

# Problem Ants part 1

## Participant Workbook



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## Target audience

The **Problem ants part 1** workshop is for **Biosecurity, Environment and Agriculture officers** who may directly encounter invasive ants in the course of their work, **officers involved in Outreach** and **Consultants and NGO representatives**. Participants will gain knowledge that will help understand why these ants are a problem and a little of their biology, to help inform the community.

## Objectives

By the end of this workshop participants should:

Exercise 1: Why are invasive ants a problem?

- Have an understanding that not all ants cause problems and that only some ants need to be controlled or eradicated

Exercise 2: What makes these ants so successful?

- Be able to use the PIAT to find out why some species of ants are more successful as invaders than others

Exercise 3: The life cycle of the ant

- Be able to use the PIAT to understand how the biology of ants affects their management
- Be able to use the resources in the PIAT to understand the how ant biology and interactions with other species can affect their ability to become a significant pest

Exercise 4: What should you do about invasive ants?

- Identify when an ant might be likely to cause problems and what should be done about them

## Duration

0.5 days

## Materials required

- white board
- A3 sheets for collaboration
- whiteboard marker
- permanent marker or sharpie
- laptops for participants
- laptop with AV
- workbooks printed in colour
- pencils / pens
- USB, CD or online access to the PIAT
- labels for participant / facilitator names
- print outs of 5 worst and 18 harmful ants posters
- print outs of life stages

## Exercise 1: Why are invasive ants a problem?

Duration: 1 hour

Watch the videos about little fire ants and yellow crazy ants in the Pacific. Read the **Problem ants** main page of the PIAT to find the three main ways invasive ants cause harm (these are sometimes called impacts). Based on what you have read and the videos, discuss the following questions.

**Q1. What three main types of problems (harm) do invasive ants cause?**

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Look at the **Problem ants → What are the problems invasive ants cause?** page. Scroll down to read about some of the impacts. Read through the impacts for some of the 5 worst ants in the **Problem ants → 5 worst threat ants to the Pacific** section (little fire ants for example).

**Q2. What are some specific examples of severe impacts?**

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**Q3. Do you think that ant problems can result in a financial impact? What sort of impacts?**

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**Q4. What would be some good ways of preventing these impacts?**

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## Exercise 3: The life cycle of the ant

Duration: 2 hours

**Q1. Can you tell the different life stages apart easily?**

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Let's go outside and try to find and open an ant nest and look for brood (pupae and larvae). Also, look around for mealy bugs, scale insects or aphids on any fruit trees or other plants around. Ask the facilitator if you don't know what these look like.

**Q2. Was it easy to find an ant nest?**

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**Q3. When you opened the nest, what did you find most of – queens, workers or brood?**

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**Q4. Based on what you have learned in the workshop so far, why do you think there were more of one life stage (adult workers for example) than another (queens or males for example)?**

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## Version control

<b>author</b>	<b>description</b>	<b>date</b>
Monica Gruber	Version v1 – based on full <i>Problem ants</i> workshop and incorporating feedback from Kiritimati training	16 Jan 2017
Monica Gruber	Revision v2 – incorporating feedback from SPC training in Suva	12 Apr 2017