

Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Blue Oak Ranch Reserve, Santa Clara Co., California

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This is a list of ant species observed at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve (BORR), Santa Clara County, California (37°23'N 121°44'W).

Subfamily, species	Nesting habits (A = arboreal) (G = ground)	Feeding habits (O = omnivore/scavenger) (P = predator) (S = seed-harvester)
Dolichoderinae		
<i>Liometopum occidentale</i>	A	O
<i>Tapinoma sessile</i>	G	O
Ecitoninae		
<i>Neivamyrmex nigrescens</i>	G	P
Formicinae		
<i>Camponotus essigi</i>	A	O
<i>Camponotus semitestaceus</i>	G	O
<i>Formica moki</i>	G	O
<i>Prenolepis imparis</i>	G	O
Myrmicinae		
<i>Crematogaster marioni</i>	A	O
<i>Messor andrei</i>	G	S (O)
<i>Solenopsis molesta</i>	G	O
<i>Stenamma diecki</i>	G	P
<i>Stenamma</i> sp. 1 cf. <i>punctatoventre</i>	G	P
<i>Temnothorax andrei</i>	G	O
<i>Temnothorax</i> sp. CA03	A	O

## Comments

These ant species are typical of California chaparral and oak woodland. Most of them would be characterized as generalist scavengers and omnivores. *Messor andrei* is a prodigious seed-harvester, whose nest entrances are conspicuously decorated with seed chaff. Army ants—specialized nomadic predators that engage in group raids on other ant nests—are represented by one species of *Neivamyrmex*. All of the listed ant species are indigenous to California. Michael Hamilton reported that there had been a temporary infestation of Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) at the field station. It is worth monitoring for the presence of this species since it aggressively eliminates native ants.

Images of these and other California ant species can be seen on the “California Ants” page of AntWeb (<http://www.antweb.org/california.jsp>). Voucher specimens of the ant species collected at BORR will be deposited in the Bohart Museum of Entomology (UCDC), with partial sets in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZC) and at the BORR field station.