

Argentine Ant

Linepithema humile

Feeding Preferences and Strategies

By Gabriel Anderson

Natural Feeding Preferences

- 70% of diet is honeydew (excretions) from aphid, mealybug, and scale insect
- Insects, insect larvae, and earthworms
- Fruit, buds of plants

Adapted Feeding Preferences

- Any household foods
 - Sweets and oils



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Feeding Strategies

- Aggressively attacks and runs out any competitive species within feeding area including parasitoids, predators, and ants
- Long range sense of smell and sight is poor, so encounters with food source is by chance
- Persistent forager
- Provide protection to honeydew producing insects



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