



Mexico's Ants: Who are They and Where do They Live?

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MEXICO'S ANTS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

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Study Description

A team of 79 scientists from more than 50 institutions partnered to gather all available information regarding Mexican ants since 1894, the year in which the first geographical record of an ant is known for the country. In this new study, including more than 21,000 records, we showed that there are ~900 species of ants in Mexico, which are distributed unevenly across the country. Mexico is one of the relatively few countries along the interface of the tropical and temperate zones, and is a megadiverse country.

Dáttilo, W., M. Vásquez-Bolaños, D. A. Ahuatzin, R. Antoniazzi, E. Chávez-González, E. Corro, P. Luna, R. Guevara, F. Villalobos, R. Madrigal-Chavero, J. C. de Faria Falcão, A. Bonilla-Ramírez, A. R. G. Romero, A. de la Mora, A. Ramírez-Hernández, A. L. Escalante-Jiménez, A. P. Martínez-Falcón, A. I. Villarreal, A. G. C. Sandoval, B. Aponte, B. Juárez-Juárez, C. Castillo-Guevara, C. E. Moreno, C. Albor, D. L. Martínez-Tlapa, E. Huber-Sannwald, F. Escobar, F. J. Montiel-Reyes, F. Varela-Hernández, G. Castaño-Meneses, G. Pérez-Lachaud, G. R. Pérez-Toledo, I. Alcalá-Martínez, I. S. Rivera-Salinas, I. Chairez-Hernández, I. A. Chamorro-Florescano, J. Hernández-Flores, J. M. Toledo, J.-P. Lachaud, J. L. Reyes-Muñoz, J. E. Valenzuela-González, J. V. Horta-Vega, J. D. Cruz-Labana, J. J. Reynoso-Campos, J. L. Navarrete-Heredia, J. A. Rodríguez-Garza, J. F. Pérez-Domínguez, J. Benítez-Malvido, K. K. Ennis, L. Sáenz, L. A. Díaz-Montiel, L. A. Tarango-Arámbula, L. N. Quiroz-Robedo, M. Rosas-Mejía, M. Villalvazo-Palacios, M. Gómez-Lazaga, M. Cuautle, M. J. Aguilar-Méndez, M. L. Baena, M. Madora-Astudillo, M. Rocha-Ortega, M. Pale, M. A. García-Martínez, M. A. Soto-Cárdenas, M. M. Correa-Ramírez, M. Janda, P. Rojas, R. Torres-Ricario, R. W. Jones, R. Coates, S. L. Gómez-Acevedo, S. Ugalde-Lezama, S. M. Philpott, T. Joaqui, T. Marques, V. Zamora-Gutierrez, V. M. Mandujano, Z. Hajian-Forooshani, and I. MacGregor-Fors. 2020. Mexico's Ants: Who are They and Where do They Live? *Bull Ecol Soc Am* 101(2):e01666. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bes2.1666>



Figure 1. Trap-jaw ant *Anochetus mayri* (Formicidae: Ponerinae), a species with small nests native to Mexico and distributed in the Neotropical and Transition zone of the country, occurring from sea level to an elevation of ~1000 m. Photo credit: Diana Ahuatzin.



Figure 2. Turtle ant *Cephalotes scutulatus* (Formicidae: Myrmicinae), a tree-dwelling myrmicine ant species native to Mexico and distributed in the Neotropical and Transition zone of the country occurring from sea level to an elevation of ~1200 m. Photo credit: Diana Ahuatzin.



Figure 3. Red harvester ant *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* (Formicidae: Myrmicinae), an ant species native to Mexico and dominant in the arid and semiarid highlands of the country, mainly due to their large colonies and wider trophic niche, which includes fruits, seeds, twigs, leaves, flowers, and invertebrates. Photo credit: Pedro Luna.

These photographs illustrate the article “Mexico ants: incidence and abundance along the Nearctic-Neotropical interface” by Wesley Dáttilo et al. published in *Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2944>