

**Latin name : Formicidae**

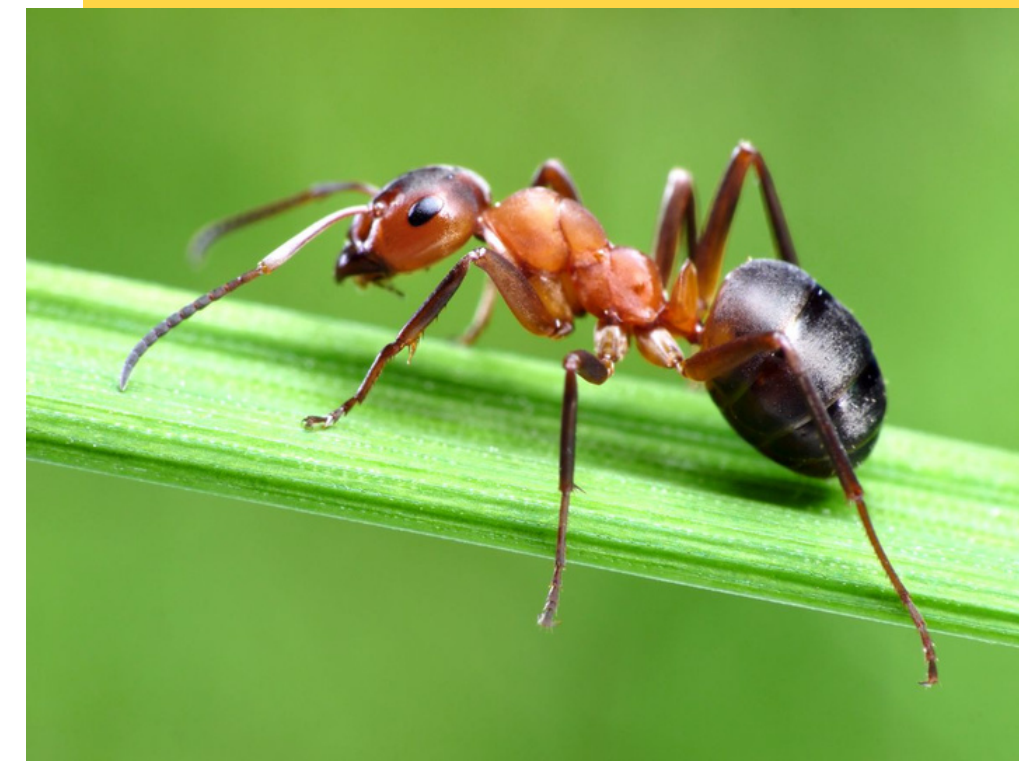
**Size : 1 to 30 mm**

**Lifespan -workers : a few weeks**

**Lifespan -queen : several years**

## Ants

Ants are social insects that depend on each other and cannot survive on their own. This is why they are always organised in colonies. They are omnivores, feeding on anything they can find: seeds, aphid honeydew, flower pollen, but also the corpses of insects and small animals.



Ants develop partnerships that are more or less accepted by their partners. Take, for example, the close symbiotic relationship they have developed with fungi. Ants cultivate fungi using leaves, flowers and other organic matter that they collect in their environment. The ants chew these organic materials and mix them with their excrement to create a substrate on which the fungi can grow. The fungi then produce fruiting bodies that are consumed by the ants. This symbiotic relationship is so close that ants have developed physiological adaptations to cultivate mushrooms. For example, some ant species have special glands that produce antibiotics to protect the fungi from bacterial and fungal infections.