



How can you contribute to scientific research?

Scientists at the California Academy of Sciences suspect that there are approximately 100 species of ants in and around the 10 counties comprising the San Francisco Bay Area. With the help of citizen scientists, we are conducting a survey of Bay Area ants. The goals of this scientific survey are to identify local species, chart native ant distributions, and to provide baseline data to monitor the distribution of the invasive Argentine ant.

Collecting kit materials:

collecting vial filled with 95% ethanol
data sheet



Send your ant-filled vial and completed data sheet to:

ATTN: Bay Area Ant Survey
Naturalist Center
California Academy of Sciences
55 Music Concourse Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118

How to collect ants:



1. Look in your backyard, along the sidewalk, on a hiking trail, or in your school yard.
2. If you can't find any ants, set out bait. Ants love cookies, honey, and small pieces of meat.
3. After an hour or so, check for ants. Pick them up gently, perhaps using a leaf. Try to get **at least 5 ants** into the vial filled with ethanol. This liquid preserves the bodies. If you prefer to slow the ants down before preserving them, place them in the freezer for a bit.
4. Fill out the attached data sheet for **each unique collection site**. Be accurate and thorough, as this data will be used for scientific research. You can attach a map of your survey site if you'd like.
5. Use a padded envelope to mail your ant-filled vial and completed data sheet to the Naturalist Center. Academy researchers will identify, map, and catalog your specimens.
6. If you would like to try to identify your ants under a microscope, make an appointment with Naturalist Center staff. Call (415) 379-5494, or email naturalist@calacademy.org.



Data Sheet



BAY AREA ANT SURVEY

Complete the following information. Be thorough!

Code on Collection Vial: _____

Number of Ants Collected: _____

Collection Date: _____

Collector Information

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Email addresses will not be sold to a third party. If you provide a valid email, we will send you a direct link to your record on AntWeb. To view all survey records, perform an Advanced Search limiting the Collection Method to contain "BAAS". Please note that the collector's name is an important element of any record, and as such, will be displayed online in abbreviated form.

Collection Locality Information

Type of location: _____

(e.g., Jefferson Elementary School; Skyline Regional Park; private residence)

Habitat: _____

(e.g., under rotting log in oak woodland; on city sidewalk; in house)

Street address: _____

Nearest cross street: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip code (if known): _____

Specimen Information (optional)

Common name: _____

Scientific name: _____

Other comments (e.g., GPS coordinates): _____

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Thank you for participating in citizen science!

