



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

carpenter ant

representative specimen

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Hymenoptera
Family: Formicidae

FEATURES

Carpenter ants grow to one-fourth to one-half inch in length. The body is light red, brown or black. Each antenna has 12 segments and no club at the tip. Worker carpenter ants do not have a stinger.

BEHAVIORS

The carpenter ant may be found statewide in Illinois. This insect excavates a series of tunnels in wood for its nest. It does not eat the wood, however. Each carpenter ant colony may have 2,500 individuals. The tunnels built by these ants help to speed the conversion of fallen trees to soil. The excavated areas in wood allow fungi and other decay organisms quick entry into the wood. This insect eats dead insects, insects it captures, honeydew and fruit juices.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest