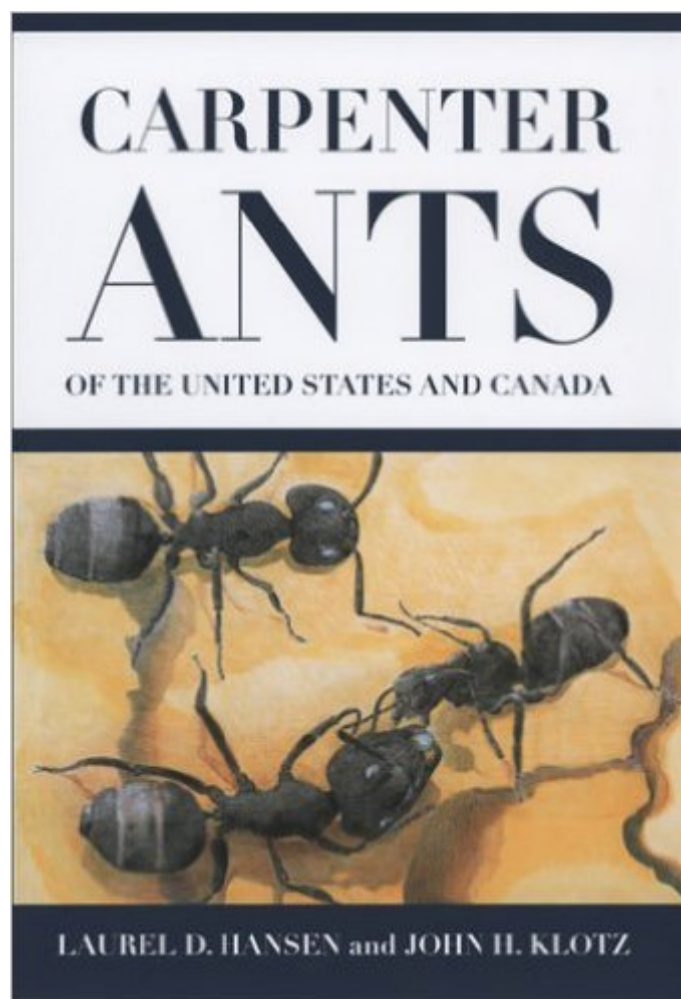


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Carpenter Ants Of The United States And Canada



Synopsis

The carpenter ant is one of the most common and destructive pests affecting homes and businesses. However, in natural areas, these ants also play an important role in forest ecology: they break down dead wood and are the principal food source of the pileated woodpecker. In the first book devoted entirely to carpenter ants, Laurel D. Hansen and John H. Klotz cover the ants' life history and foraging behavior, then turn to their economic importance. The authors provide a comprehensive overview of carpenter ant ecology, morphology, taxonomy, and distribution as well as a detailed chapter on control and management that will appeal especially to urban pest control programs and pest management officials. Carpenter Ants of the United States and Canada is illustrated with distribution maps, 94 halftones, 52 line drawings, and 24 color plates on a four-page insert.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Comstock Publishing Associates; 1 edition (April 28, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801442621

ISBN-13: 978-0801442629

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

• Carpenter Ants of the United States and Canada • by Laurel D. Hansen and John H. Klotz. 204 pages, hardcover, © 2005 by Comstock Publishing Associates. Of the 15,000 likely species of ants, 900 are species of the carpenter ant genus *Camponotus*, of which 50 live in the United States. This is a compilation of what is so far known about carpenter ants. In spite of many graphs and tables, it is quite readable to the person who has an interest. However, it is not in story form but is scientifically organized; that makes it more of a textbook. Chapter 1 addresses "Ecology" including relationships with birds and coexistence with the other ant genus found in wood: *Formica*

spp. Chapter 2 details "Morphology" with excellent line drawings of ant anatomy. Each chapter has its own list of references which are extensive. Chapter 3 details the taxonomy of the seven subgenera and provides keys. Chapter 4 addresses "Life History" including mating flights, colony characteristics, etc. Chapter 5 describes foraging and the various sizes of workers from minors to majors as well as activity rhythms, diet, etc. Finally, Chapter 6 provides an overview of the types of structural damage, treatments, and other management practices. Not all damage nor all species are confined to human habitats and damage to forests and cut timber is included. Line drawings, electron photomicrographs, figures and tables are of good quality while the black-and-white photos of larvae, damage, etc. are of medium quality due to being printed on non-gloss paper, but are serviceable. Range maps for various species are useful in an age when few states have biological surveys.

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