

International Invasive Ant Management Workshop, 27-29 April 2010, Darwin, Australia



An invasive ant management workshop was held at the CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre in Darwin, Australia on 27-29 April 2010. The workshop aimed to facilitate networking among people from around the world involved in invasive ant management, as well as to improve the incorporation of research and ant biology into management. This event provided a perfect opportunity for researchers and managers to interact, share information and establish working relationships.

The workshop was attended by 54 people from 10 countries. It featured 36 presentations covering a wide variety of topics, from basic descriptions of ongoing ant management programs through to the latest research into invasive ant biology and ecology, as well as technology being developed for ant management. Such technology included high resolution helicopter-mounted sensors scanning for visual and thermal signatures of ant colonies from a height of 400 feet. If successful, this technology will allow the assessment of much greater areas for Red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, than is possible using current ground-based methods.

A half day field trip gave delegates the opportunity to view numerous invasive ant species established in northern Australia, as well as to visit Howard Springs Nature Park which has been the focus of over a decade of invasive ant research, particularly focused on the African big-headed ant, *Pheidole megacephala*. Workshop participants were also shown the CSIRO Invertebrate Biodiversity laboratory which houses Australia's most comprehensive ant collection, containing 4500 Australian species and another 1500 from overseas.

The workshop didn't aim to produce conclusions or recommendations, rather stronger networking among ant management programs, and the forging of ties between researchers and managers. The high number of emails among delegates, particularly the dissemination of much "grey literature" after the event indicates that the workshop has been a great success. Many workshop presentations are available to all on the internet at www.littlefireants.com – go to the link displaying the workshop name.

For further information about the workshop contact:

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