

# A Checklist of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Saskatchewan

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Based on field surveys, museum specimens, and published literature, we document 73 ant species in three subfamilies and 12 genera for the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. An additional 16 species are known from surrounding regions and are likely to occur in Saskatchewan.

Key Words: Ants; Saskatchewan; checklist; Hymenoptera; Formicidae

## Introduction

The ant fauna of Saskatchewan, Canada, has been relatively poorly studied, and, thus, we present a list of ant species from the province based on our own field surveys, examination of museum specimens, and a search of the literature. Additional species that are anticipated in Saskatchewan based on their presence in surrounding regions are also noted.

Few published papers provide species-level information on ants from Saskatchewan. Kidd and Longair (1997) examined boreal ants, identifying five species. Both Radtke *et al.* (2014) and Glasier and Acorn (2014) examined grassland ants and listed 13 and 33 species, respectively. Several ecological studies (Ferguson 2000, 2001, 2004; Chikoski *et al.* 2006) have dealt with ants in Saskatchewan, but they did not identify them to species. Hansen and Klotz (2005) reviewed *Camponotus* species from North America and listed five species for the province, but did not provide specimen localities. Likewise, Wheeler and Wheeler (1986) mention *Formica planipilis* from Saskatchewan, but do not provide a locality. In their taxonomic reviews of *Lasius*, Wilson (1955) and Wing (1968), report seven *Lasius* species from southern Saskatchewan locations. In addition, Francoeur's (1973) review of *fusca*-group *Formica* reported three species in the province. With this patchwork of studies, it is difficult to assess the diversity of ants found in the province.

Ant fauna from the regions bordering Saskatchewan, however, are relatively well reported. A preliminary checklist (Wheeler *et al.* 1989) of ants in Manitoba (to the east) identifies 52 species, while a key for Alberta (to the west) lists 93 species (Glasier *et al.* 2013). Ant lists from the southern bordering states of Montana

(Wheeler and Wheeler 1988) and North Dakota (Wheeler and Wheeler 1977) identified 76 and 87 species, respectively. It may be expected that Saskatchewan would share similar ant species diversity as that reported in the surrounding regions. However, little is known about the ant fauna of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to the north.

## Study Area

Saskatchewan's surface area is 651 900 km<sup>2</sup>, and the province includes four main ecozones: prairie, boreal plains, boreal shield, and taiga shield (Figure 1). The ecozones differ as follows.

The prairie ecozone is characterized by mixed grasslands to the south and aspen parkland in the north. The southern grasslands are dominated by wheatgrasses and speargrasses, with wetter areas hosting small shrubs, such as Wolf-willow (*Elaeagnus commutata* Bernhardt ex Rydberg) or Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp. DuRoi). The northerly aspen parkland is dominated by fescue grasslands and aspen woodlands. The Cypress Hills, along the southwestern edge of the province, are also found in this ecozone. This is the only area of the province that remained unglaciated during the last ice age, and because of its elevation, it is covered in Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* Douglas ex Loudon), aspen (*Populus* spp. L), and White Spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) forests (Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre 2014).

The boreal plain ecozone is a mix of boreal forest, farmland, and peatlands. In the southern areas, aspen forests dominate, with some White Spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) or Black Spruce (*Picea mariana* (Miller) Britton, Sterns & Poggenburgh). Northward in this zone, peatlands with Tamarack (*Larix laricina* (Du

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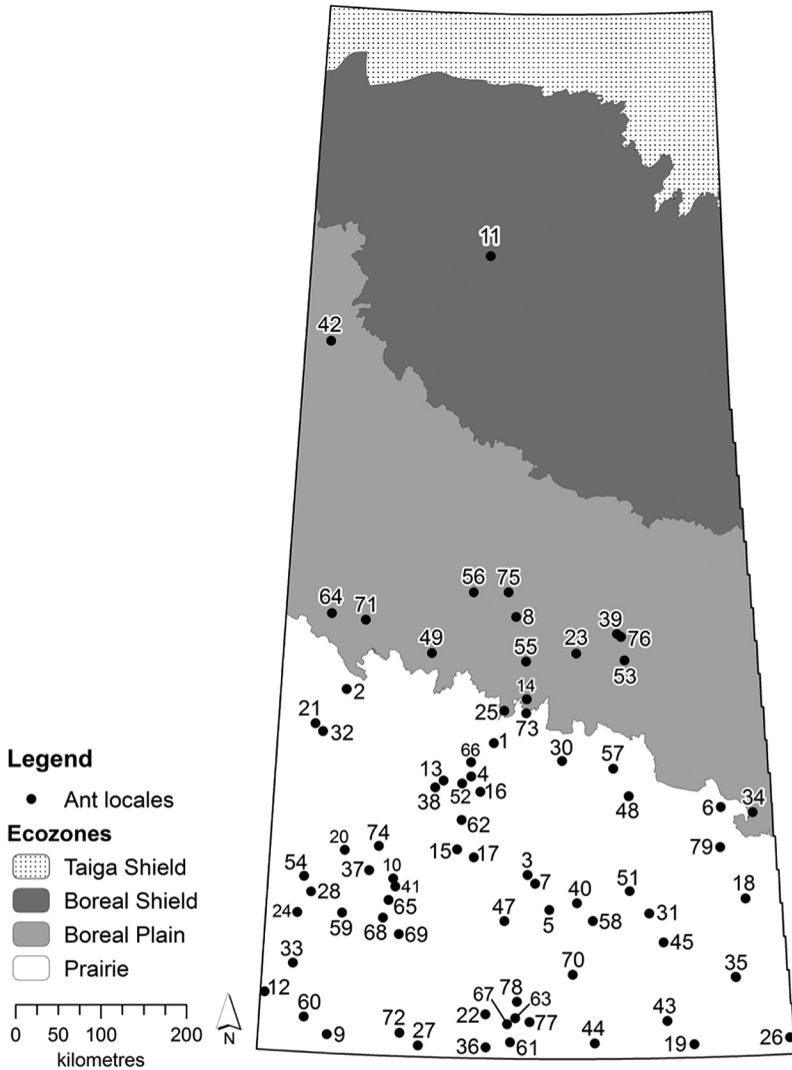


FIGURE 1: Sampled localities in Saskatchewan. Locality numbers are matched with species records in the checklist of ants.

Roi) K. Koch) and Black Spruce are common in low-lying areas, whereas elevated areas are dominated by mixed aspen and White Spruce forests. Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lambert) and spruce woodlands are sporadic, and found in areas with sandy soils (Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre 2014).

The boreal shield ecozone is covered in numerous freshwater lakes. It is vegetated by a mix of Jack Pine and Black Spruce in sandy soil areas. In wet, low-lying areas, Tamarack and Black Spruce peatlands are common, while White Birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marshall) and Black Spruce forests are found in drier areas (Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre 2014).

The taiga shield ecozone encompasses the northern part of Saskatchewan. It is an area of thin soils over

Precambrian bedrock and is considered transitional between boreal and tundra zones. Lowland woodlands are composed of Jack Pine, Black Spruce, and sporadic White Spruce stands. At higher elevations and further north, boreal forest transitions to tundra of mostly short Black Spruce woodlands with lichen understory (Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre 2014).

## Methods

There are few collections of ants in Saskatchewan, and we were able to examine only the holdings at the University of Saskatchewan (UofSASK; specimens collected in the 1950s). A set of specimens in vials, awaiting pinning and identification at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station, Saskatoon,

was not examined. Neither the University of Regina nor the Royal Saskatchewan Museum insect collections contained any known ant collections.

Collections of Saskatchewan ants housed outside Saskatchewan included those at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the Royal Alberta Museum, and the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes. The University of Alberta's E. H. Strickland Entomological Museum (UASM) has close to 100 ants from three main localities. The University of Calgary Entomology Collection (BDCU) comprises about 70 specimens from four localities. The Royal Alberta Museum Entomology Collection (PMAE) contains ants primarily from Grasslands National Park and includes several hundred specimens. The Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes (CNC) has 2740 ant specimens from 60 Saskatchewan localities.

In addition, we undertook two ant surveys: one at Cree Lake (Glasier and Nielsen) in 2010 and one at the Great Sand Hills (Glasier and Acorn) in 2012. Voucher specimens from these surveys have been deposited in the E. H. Strickland Museum at the University of Alberta. In total, ant species are reported from 79 localities across the province (Figure 1).

## Results and Discussion

### *Overview of the Ant Fauna*

Based on sampling, examination of the literature, and museum collections, there are 73 species of ants, from 12 genera, and three subfamilies known from Saskatchewan. An additional 16 species and five genera are expected to be found in the province, as they are present in surrounding regions. The richest genus is *Formica*, with 33 recorded species. Other species-rich genera include *Camponotus*, *Lasius*, and *Myrmica*. Of the reported 73 ant species, all are believed to be indigenous.

Comparison with surrounding regions, especially Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013), implies that 90 or more species are most likely found in the province. Additional sampling in the northern and eastern regions of Saskatchewan should be considered to better clarify ant species distributions. Focused sampling in areas of central and southern Saskatchewan, especially grasslands and forests, will probably reveal additional species not yet reported from the province. With climate change and increasing numbers of introduced ant species in Canada, it is perhaps interesting to document which species are currently known from each region so that future studies are able to use this material as a baseline for comparisons.

### *Checklist of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Saskatchewan*

Species are organized alphabetically by subfamily, genera, and species. Comments on each genus, its diversity, and ecology are provided. For each species, all known localities from Saskatchewan are listed alpha-

betically, along with the source of the record. If a locality is not given, we provide a short explanation of why the species is included in the list. Locality number is given before the locality name (“#. locality”) and matches the numbers in Figure 1.

#### SUBFAMILY DOLICHODERINAE

##### Genus *Dolichoderus*

Both *Dolichoderus* species listed are expected in Saskatchewan because of their presence in Eastern Canada as well as Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013; LHB, unpublished observation). Members of this genus are rather easy to identify, because of the “shelf” on their propodeum (MacKay 1993; Fisher and Cover 2007). Found most often in conifer forests, they often form long foraging lines and often farm homopterans on plants (Fisher and Cover 2007).

*Dolichoderus plagiatus* (Mayr) 1870 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (LHB, unpublished observation) and Manitoba (Wheeler *et al.* 1989).

*Dolichoderus taschenbergi* (Mayr) 1866 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013) and Manitoba (Wheeler *et al.* 1989).

##### Genus *Tapinoma*

*Tapinoma sessile* is one of the most widespread species in North America (Fisher and Cover 2007). It can sometimes be a minor pest in houses and is commonly called the Olfactory House Ant because of the strong “blue cheese” or “coconut” odour they produce when crushed (Ellison *et al.* 2012).

*Tapinoma sessile* (Say) 1836 — 3. Aylesbury (CNC), 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 13. Delisle (BDCU), 19. Estevan (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 38. Laura (CNC), 50. Ogema (CNC), 54. Prelate (BDCU), 59. Roadene (CNC), 63. Saint Victor (CNC), 65. Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC), 67. Scout Lake (CNC), 78. Willows (CNC).

#### SUBFAMILY FORMICINAE

##### Genus *Brachymyrmex*

*Brachymyrmex depilis* was found at the Sandy Point Campground, Alberta (50.73°N, 110.07°W), 5.5 km west of the Saskatchewan border, and there is little doubt that this species will be found in Saskatchewan as well. These small, yellowish ants often farm subterranean homopterans on grass roots. Taxonomically, *B. depilis* could contain multiple different species, and more work is needed on this complex to determine whether regional differences warrant dividing it into multiple species (Fisher and Cover 2007).

*Brachymyrmex depilis* Emery 1893 — Expected but not confirmed; it has been found at Sandy Point Park, Alberta, along the South Saskatchewan River, 5.5 km

west of the Saskatchewan border (Glasier *et al.* 2013; Glasier and Acorn 2014).

#### Genus *Camponotus*

*Camponotus* is one of the most speciose genera in North America; they are commonly referred to as carpenter ants, as most species live in dead wood (Mackay and Mackay 2002; Hansen and Klotz 2005; Fisher and Cover 2007). In Saskatchewan there are six species in three subgenera: *Camponotus*, *Tanaemyrmex*, and *Myrmentoma*. Saskatchewan's *C. pennsylvanicus* look like intermediates between *C. pennsylvanicus* and *C. modoc*, and some myrmecologists consider these two taxa conspecific; more work and examination of these species is needed (MacKay and MacKay 2002).

*Camponotus herculeanus* (Linnaeus) 1758 — 8. Clarine Lake (Kidd and Longair 1997), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 49. Norbury (UofSASK), 55. Prince Albert (CNC; UofSASK), 58. Regina (UofSASK), 64. Saint Walburg (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC, UofSASK), 75. Waskesiu Lake (CNC), 76. White Fox (CNC), no exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

*Camponotus modoc* Wheeler W. M. 1910 — 32. Jay Lake (CNC), 71. Turtle Lake (CNC), no exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

*Camponotus nearcticus* Emery 1893 — No exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

*Camponotus novaeboracensis* (Fitch) 1855 — 6. Canora (CNC), 48. Mozart (CNC), 52. Pike Lake (CNC), 62. Rudy (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK), 72. Val Marie (CNC), 79. Yorkton (CNC), no exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

*Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (DeGeer) 1773 — 58. Regina (CNC), no exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

*Camponotus vicinus* Mayr 1870 — 27. Grasslands National Park (UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 72. Val Marie (CNC), no exact locality given (Hansen and Klotz 2005).

#### Genus *Formica*

The genus *Formica* is widely distributed in the northern hemisphere and is the most speciose genus in Saskatchewan, with 33 confirmed species. *Formica* are ecologically important in temperate ecosystems, and they are major predators of other insects as well as important food sources for a wide range of organisms, including woodpeckers and bears (Fisher and Cover 2007; Ellison *et al.* 2012). Within the province, there are six species complexes (the *exsecta*, *fusca*, *microgyna*, *neogagates*, *rufa*, and *sanguinea* groups). Social parasitism is exhibited by *sanguinea* group species, which are facultative slave-making ants of *fusca* and *neogagates* group species (Wheeler and Wheeler 1963, 1986; Fisher and Cover 2007). *Microgyna* group queens are temporary social parasites of other *Formica* species (Wheeler and Wheeler 1963, 1986). The record of *F.*

*accreta* at Cree Lake Saskatchewan is a significant northern extension of its known range and is likely an example that more sampling in northern regions is needed to better understand the distributions of ant species. Taxonomically, this genus still needs much work, and there may be several undescribed species in Canada. In Saskatchewan, *F. cf. rubicunda* is particularly difficult to assess, as some individuals may be easily confused with closely related species, such as *F. subintegra*.

*Formica accreta* Francoeur 1973 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).

*Formica adamsi* Wheeler 1909 — 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK), 72. Val Marie (CNC).

*Formica altipetens* Wheeler 1913 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013) and Manitoba (Wheeler *et al.* 1989).

*Formica argentea* Wheeler 1902 — 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 28. Great Sand Hills (BDCU), 29. Highgate (CNC), 37. Lacadena (Francoeur 1973; CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK; Francoeur 1973; CNC).

*Formica aserva* Forel 1901 — 8. Clarine Lake (Kidd and Longair 1997), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 31. Indian Head (UofSASK), 34. Kamsack (CNC), 39. Love (UofSASK), 42. Methy Lake (Wheeler 1913), 46. Moose Mountain Provincial Park (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK; CNC), 71. Turtle Lake (CNC), 78. Willows (CNC).

*Formica bradleyi* Wheeler 1913 — 17. Elbow (CNC), 24. Fox Valley (CNC), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 47. Mortlach (CNC).

*Formica canadensis* Santschi 1914 — 17. Elbow (Francoeur 1973; CNC), 18. Esterhazy (Francoeur 1973; CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 31. Indian Head (Francoeur 1973), 40. Lumsden (Francoeur 1973; CNC), 43. Midale (UofSASK), 66. Saskatoon (Francoeur 1973; CNC).

*Formica dakotensis* Emery 1893 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).

*Formica densiventris* Viereck 1903 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013) and Quebec (Francoeur 1977, 2010).

*Formica fossiceps* Buren 1942 — 61. Rockglen (CNC).

*Formica fusca* Linnaeus 1758 — 8. Clarine Lake (Kidd and Longair 1997).

*Formica glacialis* Wheeler 1908 — 1. Aberdeen (CNC), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 53. Pontrilas (Francoeur 1973; CNC), 73. Wakaw (CNC), 75. Waskesiu Lake (CNC), 77. Willow Bunch (CNC).

*Formica hewitti* Wheeler 1917 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC).

*Formica lasioides* Emery 1893 — 9. Claydon (CNC), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 13.

- Delisle (BDCU), 16. Dundurn (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 66. Saskatoon (CNC), 69. Swift Current (CNC).
- Formica limata* Wheeler 1913 — 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 47. Mortlach (CNC).
- Formica microgyna* Wheeler 1903 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM).
- Formica montana* Wheeler 1910 — 3. Aylesbury (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 41. Matador (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).
- Formica neoclara* Emery 1893 — 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 17. Elbow (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 54. Prelate (BDCU), 58. Regina (UofSASK), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK).
- Formica neogagates* Viereck 1903 — 9. Claydon (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 16. Dundurn (CNC), 17. Elbow (CNC), 19. Estevan (CNC), 24. Fox Valley (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (BDCU; UASM), 46. Moose Mountain Provincial Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).
- Formica neorufibarbis* Emery 1893 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 14. Doremy (CNC), 23. Fort à la Corne (CNC).
- Formica obscuripes* Forel 1886 — 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 9. Claydon (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 13. Delisle (BDCU), 17. Elbow (CNC), 19. Estevan (CNC), 26. Gainsborough (Weber 1935), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (BDCU; CNC), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 36. Killdeer (CNC), 44. Minton (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (CNC), 64. Saint Walburg (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC), 69. Swift Current (CNC), 74. Wartime (CNC).
- Formica obscuriventris* Mayr 1870 — 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK).
- Formica obtusopilosa* Emery 1893 — 7. Chamberlain (UofSASK), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 60. Robsart (CNC).
- Formica oreas* Wheeler 1903 — 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 17. Elbow (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (UofSASK), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK; CNC), 69. Swift Current (CNC).
- Formica pergandei* Emery 1893 — 47. Mortlach (CNC).
- Formica perpilosa* Wheeler 1913 — 27. Grasslands National Park (UASM), 77. Willow Bunch (CNC).
- Formica planipilis* Creighton 1940 — 52. Pike Lake (UofSASK), no exact locality given but is listed by Wheeler and Wheeler (1986).
- Formica podzolica* Francoeur 1973 — 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 6. Canora (CNC), 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 13. Delisle (BDCU), 32. Jay Lake (CNC), 33. Junction Reservoir (PMAE), 38. Laura (CNC), 45. Montmartre (CNC), 46. Moose Mountain Provincial Park (CNC), 51. Pasqua (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK; CNC), 71. Turtle Lake (CNC), 77. Willow Bunch (CNC).
- Formica puberula* Emery 1893 — 66. Saskatoon (CNC).
- Formica ravida* Creighton 1940 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).
- Formica cf. rubicunda* Emery 1893 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE).
- Formica spatulata* Buren, 1944 — 51. Pasqua (CNC).
- Formica subaenescens* Emery 1893 — 56. Prince Albert National Park (CNC).
- Formica subintegra* Wheeler 1908 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013) and Manitoba (Wheeler *et al.* 1989).
- Formica ulkei* Emery 1893 — 19. Estevan (CNC), 35. Kenosee Lake (CNC).
- Genus *Lasius*
- Lasius* is the second most speciose genus in Saskatchewan, with 14 confirmed species. Most species are omnivorous and many have close associations with above and/or below ground homopterans (Newton *et al.* 2011). There are four main species complexes: *claviger*, *flavus*, *niger*, and *umbratus* groups. All *claviger* and *umbratus* group queens exhibit temporary social parasitism on other *Lasius* species (Wilson 1955; Wing 1968; Fisher and Cover 2007). Because of the subterranean nature of many *Lasius* ants, they can be rather difficult to find; however, other species, such as *L. neoniger* are common and can often be found making “volcanoes” or cone-shaped mounds along sidewalks or in sandy areas. There is a debate about whether some *Lasius* species have a true holarctic distribution or if they might have been introduced in North America; more work is needed to resolve this discussion.
- Lasius alienus* (Förster) 1850 — 16. Dundurn (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).
- Lasius coloradensis* Wheeler 1917 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE), 60. Robsart (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC; UofSASK), no exact locality given, on map only (Wing 1968).
- Lasius crypticus* Wilson 1955 — 3. Aylesbury (CNC), 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 9. Claydon (CNC), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 19. Estevan (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (BDCU; UASM), 61. Rockglen (CNC), 77. Willow Bunch (CNC), no exact locality given, on map only (Wilson 1955).
- Lasius fallax* Wilson 1955 — 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK).
- Lasius flavus* (Fabricius) 1781 — 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 21. Farewell Lake (Wilson, 1955), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

- Lasius interjectus* Mayr 1866 — 66. Saskatoon (CNC).  
*Lasius latipes* (Walsh) 1863 — 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM).  
*Lasius murphyi* Forel 1901 — No exact locality given, on map only (Wing 1968).  
*Lasius neoniger* Emery 1893 — 4. Beaver Creek (CNC), 19. Estevan (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 31. Indian Head (UofSASK; CNC), 33. Junction Reservoir (PMAE). 66. Saskatoon (CNC), 70. Truax (UofSASK), no exact locality given, on map only (Wilson 1955).  
*Lasius niger* (Linnaeus) 1758 — 77. Willow Bunch (CNC).  
*Lasius occidentalis* Wheeler W. M. 1909 — Expected but not confirmed: found in British Columbia and Manitoba (Wing 1968).  
*Lasius pallitarsis* (Provancher) 1881 — 4. Beaver Creek (CNC), 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 13. Delisle (BDCU), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 38. Laura (CNC), 45. Montmartre (CNC), 65. Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK; CNC), 69. Swift Current (CNC), no exact locality given, on map only (Wilson 1955).  
*Lasius subglaber* Emery 1893 — 66. Saskatoon (CNC), no exact locality given, on map only (Wing 1968).  
*Lasius subumbratus* Viereck 1903 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 40. Lumsden (CNC), 58. Regina (CNC; Wilson 1955).  
*Lasius umbratus* (Nylander) 1846 — 3. Aylesbury (CNC), 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 19. Estevan (CNC), 22. Flintoft (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE), 66. Saskatoon (CNC), 77. Willow Bunch (CNC).

#### Genus *Polyergus*

*Polyergus mexicanus* is the only species of its genus reported in Saskatchewan. This species is an obligate slave-making ant, parasitizing *fusca* group *Formica* species (Trager 2013). *Polyergus* are easily recognized by their toothless, sickle-shaped mandibles, which are highly adapted for fighting other ants.  
*Polyergus mexicanus* Forel 1899 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).

#### SUBFAMILY MYRMICINAE

##### Genus *Formicoxenus*

*Formicoxenus* are small and live within the nests of *Formica* or *Myrmica* (Francoeur *et al.* 1985). They rely on their hosts for food and protection, but often construct side chambers where they keep their own larvae (Francoeur *et al.* 1985). As they live in the nests of other ants, *Formicoxenus* can often be difficult to detect using regular sampling methods. To find these small reddish-brown ants, it is often best to sift the soil of a potential host colony, using a strainer or sieve. They

look similar to *Leptothorax* and *Temnothorax*, but have erect setae on their eyes, a characteristic that can be detected only by using a microscope.

*Formicoxenus hirticornis* (Emery) 1895 — Expected but not found: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013) and Manitoba (Wheeler *et al.* 1989).

*Formicoxenus quebecensis* Francoeur 1985 — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).

*Formicoxenus provancheri* (Emery) 1895 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Francoeur *et al.* 1985; Glasier *et al.* 2013; Glasier and Acorn 2014), Ontario, and Quebec (Francoeur *et al.* 1985).

##### Genus *Harpagoxenus*

*Harpagoxenus* is an obligate slave-making ant of *Leptothorax* species (Stuart and Alloway 1983). The only species in Canada, *H. canadensis* Smith primarily enslaves *Leptothorax* species. These ants are similar in size to *Leptothorax* and *Temnothorax*, but have toothless mandibles and large block-like heads.

*Harpagoxenus canadensis* Smith 1939 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013), Ontario (Stuart and Alloway 1983), and Quebec (Francoeur 1977).

##### Genus *Leptothorax*

Species in the genus *Leptothorax* are difficult to identify confidently without comparative material and much familiarization (Fisher and Cover 2007; Glasier *et al.* 2013). They are common in a wide range of habitats and often nest in rotten wood or under stones.

*Leptothorax acervorum* (Fabricius) 1793 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Yukon (Francoeur 1997), Manitoba, and Quebec (Francoeur 1983).

*Leptothorax muscorum* (Nylander) 1846 — 4. Beaver Creek (CNC), 8. Clarine Lake (Kidd and Longair 1997), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 15. Dunblane (CNC), 17. Elbow (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 47. Mortlach (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Leptothorax retractus* Francoeur 1986 — 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Leptothorax wilsoni* Heinze 1989 — Expected but not confirmed: found in Alberta (Buschinger and Schumann 1994), Quebec, and New Brunswick (Heinze 1989).

##### Genus *Monomorium*

*Monomorium minimum* is a wide-ranging species complex found across most of North America (Fisher and Cover 2007). It is often found under rocks or in rotting wood. *Monomorium pharaonis* is an introduced ant that is primarily found in heated buildings (Klotz *et al.* 2008). Both species are small, have colonies of a few thousand workers, often move nest sites, and have multiple queens per colony (Wheeler and Wheeler 1963, 1986).

*Monomorium minimum* (Buckley) 1867 — 10. Clearwater Lake (BDCU), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM).

*Monomorium pharaonis* (Linnaeus) 1758 — Expected but not confirmed: an introduced species found across North America and expected in human dwellings (Klotz *et al.* 2008). Found in Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013), Manitoba (Ayre 1977), Quebec (Francoeur 1977), British Columbia, Nunavut, Ontario, and Nova Scotia (LHB, unpublished observation).

#### Genus *Myrmica*

Identification of *Myrmica* species can be difficult, as many species are distinguished by few or obscure characteristics (Fisher and Cover 2007; Ellison *et al.* 2012; Glasier *et al.* 2013). They are common throughout Saskatchewan and are found in most ecoregions. *Myrmica* are generalist omnivores that hunt insects, harvest plant materials, and farm homopterans (Fisher and Cover 2007; Newton *et al.* 2011). Taxonomically, this genus is still in need of more work in North America (Fisher and Cover 2007; Jansen *et al.* 2010), and the two undescribed species (*Myrmica* AF-eva and *Myrmica* cf. AF-sub) highlight this lack of understanding.

*Myrmica alaskensis* Wheeler 1917 — 1. Aberdeen (CNC), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 57. Quill Lake (UofSASK), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Myrmica americana* Weber 1939 — 17. Elbow (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 47. Mortlach (CNC).

*Myrmica brevispinosa* Wheeler 1917 — 16. Dundurn (CNC), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 25. Gabriel's Bridge (South Saskatchewan River) (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK), 69. Swift Current (CNC).

*Myrmica crassirugis* Francoeur 2007 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM).

*Myrmica detritinodis* Emery 1921 — 2. Atton's Lake (CNC), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Myrmica fracticornis* Forel 1901 — 2. Atton's Lake (CNC), 3. Aylesbury (CNC), 5. Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (CNC), 6. Canora (CNC), 8. Clarine Lake (Kidd and Longair 1997), 11. Cree Lake (UASM), 17. Elbow (CNC), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 47. Mortlach (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (UofSASK), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Myrmica incompleta* Provancher 1881 — 12. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CNC), 30. Humbolt Lake (CNC), 31. Indian Head (CNC), 38. Laura (CNC), 41. Matador (CNC), 56. Prince Albert National Park (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (CNC; UofSASK), 71. Turtle Lake (CNC), 75. Waskesiu Lake (CNC).

*Myrmica latifrons* Stårcke 1927 — 2. Atton's Lake (CNC), 4. Beaver Creek (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 32. Jay Lake (CNC),

38. Laura (CNC), 45. Montmartre (CNC), 47. Mortlach (CNC), 66. Saskatoon (UofSASK).

*Myrmica lobifrons* Pergande 1900 — Expected but not confirmed: found in British Columbia (Higgins and Lindgren 2008), Yukon (Francoeur 1977), Alberta (Glasier *et al.* 2013), Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador (LHB, unpublished observation).

*Myrmica nearctica* Weber 1939 — 68. Success (UofSASK).

*Myrmica* undescribed code AF-eva by André Francoeur — 19. Estevan (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 28. Great Sand Hills (UASM), 38. Laura (CNC), 60. Robsart (CNC).

*Myrmica* cf. undescribed code AF-sub by André Francoeur — 11. Cree Lake (UASM).

#### Genus *Pogonomyrmex*

*Pogonomyrmex* species are commonly called harvester ants, as they harvest and eat seeds of grasses and other plants (Fisher and Cover 2007). *P. occidentalis* colonies also construct obvious cone-shaped nests, often covered with small stones, which makes them easily visible from many metres away.

*Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* (Cresson) 1865 — 28. Great Sand Hills (CNC; UASM).

#### Genus *Solenopsis*

*Solenopsis molesta* is the only species in the genus *Solenopsis* in the province, and it is part of a species complex that is found throughout North America (Fisher and Cover 2007). These ants are often called thief ants, for their tendency to nest near larger ants from which they "steal" stored food (Fisher and Cover 2007). *Solenopsis molesta* (Say) 1836 — 20. Eston (CNC), 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM).

#### Genus *Stenamma*

*Stenamma diecki* is found in southern forests of other Canadian provinces and may be found in southern woodlands, such as the Cypress Hills, in Saskatchewan. This species forages individually, prefers moist soils, and will feign death for a short time when disturbed, making it difficult to detect (Talbot 1976).

*Stenamma diecki* Emery 1895 — Expected but not confirmed: found in British Columbia (Higgins and Lindgren 2008), Ontario (Smith 1957), Quebec (Francoeur 1977), and New Brunswick (LHB, unpublished observation).

#### Genus *Temnothorax*

The two species of *Temnothorax* in Saskatchewan are often found in grassland habitats. These ants forage alone, are cautious of other ants, and are opportunistic feeders, eating anything from plant sap to invertebrates (Fisher and Cover 2007; Newton *et al.* 2011).

*Temnothorax ambiguus* (Emery) 1895 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE; UASM), 66. Saskatoon (CNC).

*Temnothorax rugatulus* (Emery) 1895 — 27. Grasslands National Park (PMAE;UASM), 72. Val Marie (UofSASK).

#### SUBFAMILY PONERINAE

##### Genus *Hypoponera*

*Hypoponera punctatissima* is an introduced ant species found worldwide (Bolton and Fisher 2011), in Canada primarily in heated buildings. It has been found across Canada (LHB, unpublished observation) and is likely found in Saskatchewan (Klotz *et al.* 2008).

*Hypoponera punctatissima* (Roger) 1859 — Expected but not confirmed: in Canada, found in Quebec (Francoeur 1977), Alberta (JHA, unpublished observation), Ontario, and British Columbia (LHB, unpublished observation).

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