

# PLANTS AND ENVIRONMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

## **Monomorium detected at Port of Napier**

A *Monomorium* species was found during a delimiting survey for tropical fire ant at the Port of Napier. The tropical fire ant response was initiated after detection as part of the National Invasive Ant Surveillance programme. Flybusters/Antiants Ltd located and eradicated the nest on 11 April 2013. Maxforce granular ant bait (10g/kg hydramethylnon) was applied to the area where the nest was found. Ants were seen recruiting to the bait. Termidor (100g/L Fipronil) was also applied for 40 m on either side of the nest location. The investigation was closed as the biosecurity risk has been addressed.

## **Exotic carpenter ants found at Mt Maunganui**

Large ants were found in a packet of photographic paper at a store in Mt Maunganui. The few that escaped from the package were killed and the area was sprayed with a residual contact insecticide. The package was wrapped in layers of plastic, removed to a Transitional Facility and placed in a freezer. Samples were identified by the Plant Health Environment Laboratory as an exotic carpenter ant, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*. The photographic paper originated from Greenwood, South Carolina, USA. Nine males and about 100 workers were identified. *C. pennsylvanicus* is the most common carpenter ant species found in the USA.

## **Yellow crazy ants found at the Ports of Auckland**

Dead yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) were found in a surveillance bait station while completing a toxic baiting programme at the Ports of Auckland. The ants

The Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) Investigation and Diagnostic Centres & Response directorate (IDC & R) is accountable for the investigation and diagnosis of suspect exotic pests and diseases. In the plant and environment sectors IDC & R has investigators and scientists based in Auckland and Christchurch. The IDC & R provides field investigation, diagnostic testing and technical expertise with regard to new pests and diseases affecting plants and the environment. The IDC & R also conducts surveillance and response functions, and research and development to support surveillance and incursion response activities.

were sent to the Plant Health Environment Laboratory for confirmation. Eight yellow crazy ants and one Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) were present. Flybusters/Antiants Ltd completed surveillance for *A. gracilipes* over a 50 m radius around the site of the original find. No more yellow crazy ants were found in baited pottles but a couple of dead specimens were found close by. Extra bait stations containing toxic baits (Extermant-carbohydrate, Xstinguish-protein) were installed around the find area as a further precaution.

Heather Pearson  
Incursion Investigator  
Surveillance and Incursion Investigation  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
[Heather.Pearson@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Heather.Pearson@mpi.govt.nz)

Carolyn Bleach  
Incursion Investigator  
Surveillance and Incursion Investigation  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
[Carolyn.Bleach@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Carolyn.Bleach@mpi.govt.nz)

## **PEST WATCH: 16 May 2013 – 31 July 2013**

Biosecurity is about managing risks: protecting New Zealand from exotic pests and diseases that could harm our natural resources and primary industries. MPI's Investigation & Diagnostic Centres and Response directorate devote much of their time to ensuring that new organism records come to their attention, and to following up as appropriate.

Since the last issue *Surveillance* there have been no validated new to New Zealand species records associated with plants.

To report suspect new pests and diseases to MPI phone 0800 80 99 66.