

## UK pest status report for *Acromyrmex octospinosus*

Field	Detail
<b>Pest species name</b>	<p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus</i> Reich (1793)</p> <p>*Taxonomic note, currently three subspecies of <i>A. octospinosus</i> are recognized, these subspecies are regional variants, the subspecies would all still be ecologically analogous with each other with regards to plant health.</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus inti</i>: described from Peru</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus cubanus</i>: described from Cuba</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus ekchuah</i>: described from Mexico</p>
<b>Pest taxon (order, family)</b>	Order: Hymenoptera, Family: Formicidae
<b>Synonyms</b>	<p><i>Acromyrmex guentheri</i> Forel (1893)</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus cubanus</i> Wheeler (1937)</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus ekchuah</i> Wheeler (1937)</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus inti</i> Wheeler (1937)</p> <p><i>Acromyrmex octospinosus pallida</i> Wheeler (1973C)</p> <p><i>Atta octospinosa</i> Reich (1793)</p> <p><i>Formica octospinosa</i> Reich (1793)</p>
<b>Pest common name</b>	Rugged Leaf Cutter Ant / Leaf Cutter Ant
<b>Regulatory status</b>	<p>Great Britain: Not regulated</p> <p>Northern Ireland: Not regulated</p>
<b>Pest status in UK (as per ISPM 8<sup>1</sup>)</b>	Absent: pest not recorded
<b>Global distribution</b>	<p><b>North America:</b> Mexico</p> <p><b>Central America and Caribbean:</b> Aruba (introduced), Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba (introduced), Curacao (introduced), Dominica (introduced),</p>

	<p>Guadeloupe (Introduced), Guatemala, Honduras, Netherland Antilles (introduced), Nicaragua, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p><b>South America:</b> Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.</p>
<b>Main hosts</b>	<p>Polyphagous, the main commercial crop hosts are listed below.</p> <p><i>Citrus, Coffea, Cucurbitaceae, Dioscorea, Gossypium, Ipomoea batatas, Mangifera indica, Manihot esculenta, Persea americana, Scaccharum officinarum, Tamarindus indica, Theobroma cacao.</i></p>
<b>Likelihood for establishment in UK</b>	<p>Unlikely that the climate in Great Briatin and Northern Ireland would be suitable for this sub-tropical species. While the ants are considered hardy and could possibly survive in the summer in Southern parts of Great Britain, the fungus that it cultivates to feed the colony requires a constant stable temperature between 23-26°C with a 95-100% humidity, which would be impossible to maintain without specialist care. The fungus <i>Leucoagaricus gongylophorus</i> would also need to be present in the environment for a colony to form. <i>Leucoagaricus gongylophorus</i> has not been recorded from the wider environment in Great Britain (several records of the fungus exist associated with ants in colonies at Kew Gardens and Exeter University).</p>
<b>Website(s)</b>	<p><a href="https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.3005#sec-11">https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.3005#sec-11</a>.</p> <p><a href="https://antcat.org/catalog/430357">https://antcat.org/catalog/430357</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.antweb.org/description.do?genus=acromyrmex&amp;species=octospinosus&amp;rank=species">https://www.antweb.org/description.do?genus=acromyrmex&amp;species=octospinosus&amp;rank=species</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Acromyrmex_octospinosus">https://www.antwiki.org/wiki/Acromyrmex_octospinosus</a></p>

## References

Hölldobler B. and Wilson, E.O. (1990). *The ants*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

<sup>1</sup> [International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures \(ISPM\) 8 Determination of pest status in an area](#)