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Look Out for Termite Swarmers!

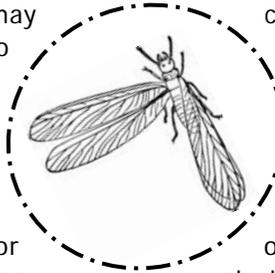
Sometime during the months ahead large numbers of winged termites will swarm out of cracks and holes just like the creepy-crawlies in a scary horror movie! Depending on the colony size and age, hundreds or even thousands of these will emerge from a colony.

Swarming in the spring or fall usually occurs just after a rain. Often the entire event is over in less than a day, but sometimes swarmers continue to emerge for several days or weeks.

Swarmers are fully reproductive females and males whose mission is to start new termite colonies. After flying for a very short period, these termites

break off wings, mate, and look for a suitable place to establish a new colony. The new queen may continue to lay eggs for up to 25 years! A colony gradually increases in size, and about four years later begins to send out swarmers of its own.

If you see swarmers or their broken off wings indoors, call us right away. A couple of dead swarmers may have simply flown in through an open window or door, but more is usually a warning sign of an infestation in your home. A professional



inspection will determine which it is, as well as find if there are unsafe conditions which make your home especially attractive to termites.

Ants also swarm, and look similar to termites. Save some of the bugs for us in a small vial or jar. Don't fill it with water—either keep it dry, or put in some rubbing or other alcohol to help preserve the pests. Also show us where you found the insects when we come.

Ants Be Gone!

During the months ahead, ants will become more and more common in and around our homes and other buildings. When you think about it, our structures provide ants with everything they need to thrive—food, water, and shelter. In fact, if ants could talk, they might even thank us for providing such plentiful accommodations!

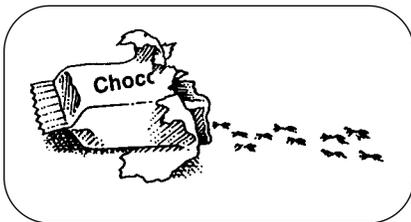
Ants are one of the most successful organisms on earth. There are a staggering estimated *10 thousand trillion* ants (one followed by 16 zeros) in the world at any one time—which means that chances are at least a *million or two* ants live very close to you!

Ants multiply with remarkable speed. Queens do nothing but constantly pump out eggs, and some species have many queens in each colony. Every year new colonies are established when colonies

blanket the area with winged ants, called "swarmers". These ants mate and become queens and kings of their own colonies. Plus, many kinds of ants have the ability to spread by a process called budding, where a colony simply splits into two or more complete colonies.

The uncanny ability of ants to quickly find food is legendary. Every day colonies send out an army of hundreds or even thousands to scout for something to eat. Tests show these ants wander in a random pattern, but after finding food, they head directly back to the colony. As they go, they lay down a scent trail that leads other ants to the feast.

We're the area's ant experts, so let us take care of these prolific pests for you. *We understand ants and how to get rid of them!*



Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Many people plant trees and shrubs too close to the foundation of their home. When these plants mature they can damage a house—their roots can crack a foundation, and their limbs can rub against a wall or roof. Be sure to give the plants space, and keep them pruned as needed.



Thank you for your business and referrals!

Predatory Mice

The world's most important seabird colony is considered to be Gough Island, an island a thousand miles off the coast of South Africa. It is home to *10 million birds* and *22 bird species*. Unfortunately house mice invaded the island more than a century ago. While seeds make up the bulk of the diet of these mice, during the winter time they deplete all of the seeds on the island, and then the mice start eating each other, as well as seabird chicks. Startling new video footage shows the young birds don't even fight off these attackers. While the birds defend themselves against other birds, they don't appear to be programmed to fend off novel predators like mice, which have learned to attack in gangs.

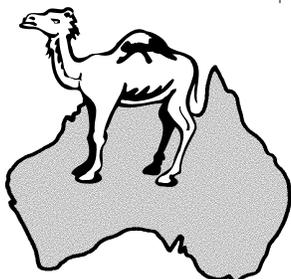


The mice on Gough Island average *three times larger* than normal mice, making them among the largest wild house mice in the world. It is believed they have grown in size and become predators there because they don't have any natural enemies and they don't have to compete with rats.

Because rats are very serious predators of many kinds of birds, large baiting campaigns have been conducted in recent years that have successfully eliminated rats from many small islands. In light of this new evidence, island restoration projects are now considering the need to eliminate invading mice, as well as rats, in order to save endangered bird species.

Those Pesty Camels!

Camels, brought to Australia in the mid 19th century to help develop the Outback, were eventually replaced by cars and abandoned. They not only survived on their own in the wild, but multiplied, and now there are more than a million of them wandering about. Camels have become serious pests because they strip vegetation bare and cause other damage, resulting in substantial damage to fragile ecosystems.



New Bed Bug Findings

Two studies just published in the February issue of the *Journal of Economic Entomology* provide us with some useful new information about bed bugs.

Does laundering kill bed bugs? Yes, washing at 140°F, or tumble drying in a dryer on a hot setting for at least 30 minutes, kills all stages of bed bugs. Soaking linens for 24 hours in plain water kills all bed bugs *except* their eggs. (Note: these findings are very different than for ticks, because most ticks survive a washing machine cycle even when it is set on hot, although a dryer set on high heat kills them.)

The other report is a **case study of a bed bug infestation** in a 223 unit high-rise apartment in Indianapolis. Within 41 months of the first confirmed bed bug infestation, 45% of the all available units had become infested. More than half of the apartments adjacent to infested apartments became infested. **More startling news:** the residents in 50% of the infested units were unaware they even had bed bugs! These facts point to the importance of public education about bed bugs, early detection, and control before the problem spreads.



More Benefits of Our Services

As we professionally control pests, we are proud to be serving an important role "PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT." Among over 100 benefits of using our pest management services, here are five that relate to your **health**:

- ☞ 1. We REDUCE THE RISK OF BEING STUNG OR BITTEN by pests like wasps, bees, spiders, rats, ants, as well as pests that SUCK YOUR BLOOD, such as fleas, ticks, and others.
- ☞ 2. We REDUCE THE CHANCE you'll contract a FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS from germs transmitted by roaches, flies, mice, ants, etc.
- ☞ 3. We help REDUCE YOUR RISK OF ALLERGY to pests like cockroaches, fleas, etc.
- ☞ 4. We help REDUCE STRESS and AGGRAVATION that is a result of a home infested with pests.
- ☞ 5. We increase your PEACE-OF-MIND because you are less likely to encounter invading pests of all kinds.

Seen Any BIG Spider Webs Lately?

There is a newly discovered spider in South Africa, called *Nephila komaci*, which is in a group of spiders called golden orb-weavers. Golden orb-weavers are significant because among web-spinning spiders, they are both the largest in size and they spin the largest webs on earth—their webs often exceed three feet in diameter. The webs are also unusually strong and have been known to last for several years.



Female Golden Silk Spider

This new species is the largest in the group, with a leg span of 4 to 5 inches, about the size of a standard CD! (The *Goliath bird-eating spider* is the largest known spider. It is a tarantula with a leg span of up to 10 inches, but tarantulas don't spin webs.) There is only one golden orb-weaver in the United States. It is called the *golden silk spider*, and makes its home in Florida and other southeastern states.