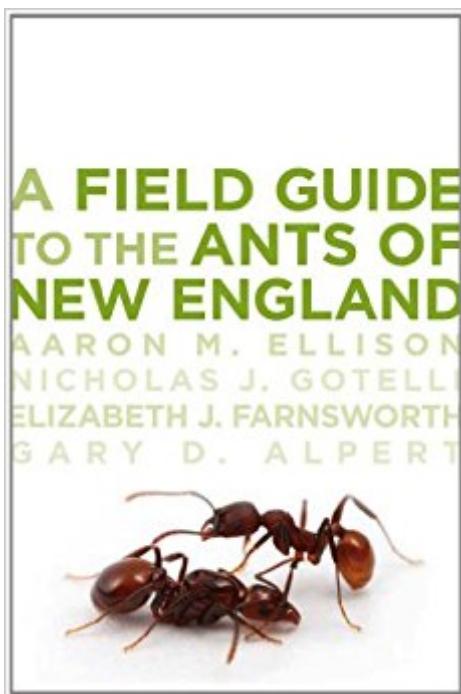


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# A Field Guide To The Ants Of New England



## Synopsis

This book is the first user-friendly regional guide devoted to ants—“the little things that run the world.” Lavishly illustrated with more than 500 line drawings, 300-plus photographs, and regional distribution maps as composite illustrations for every species, this guide will introduce amateur and professional naturalists and biologists, teachers and students, and environmental managers and pest-control professionals to more than 140 ant species found in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. The detailed drawings and species descriptions, together with the high-magnification photographs, will allow anyone to identify and learn about ants and their diversity, ecology, life histories, and beauty. In addition, the book includes sections on collecting ants, ant ecology and evolution, natural history, and patterns of geographic distribution and diversity to help readers gain a greater understanding and appreciation of ants.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This ground-breaking field guide not only contributes to our basic knowledge of ants, but places the ants of New England within reach of those interested in the natural history of the region.” Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University (Edward O. Wilson 2011-06-30) “This goes beyond any ant book that has come before it and puts it in line with the popular and best bird books on the market. It is readable and easy to use by non-experts.” Sean Menke, Lake Forest College (Sean Menke 2012-02-20) “A great combination of natural history, a little anecdote, and a

gorgeous inspired figures. Michael Kaspari, University of Oklahoma (Michael Kaspari 2012-02-20) appeal to [anyone] interested in insects or natural history in general, as well as those who are truly ant enthusiasts. Jane O'Donnell, University of Connecticut (Jane O'Donnell 2012-02-21) "This is phenomenal! A fantastic job [and] will be very usable for all students. ...I love the natural history and details about all the ants- especially the names! The matrix keys are GREAT and really helpful." Katherine Bennett, 5th grade teacher (Katherine Bennett 2012-02-21) "The book is wonderful. I never have seen a book with so much information together about biology, ecology, morphology, taxonomy, keys to species and pictures. All myrmecologists will want a copy." Rogério R. Silva, Museu de Zoologia/USP/Entomologia São Paulo (Rogério R. Silva 2012-03-01) "[A] comprehensive and lucid consideration of the over 130 ant species living in or around New England. The authors successfully convey their sense of wonder at and appreciation for an animal whose complex and fascinating lives are unknown to most, despite their ubiquity." Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly) "What a gorgeous field guide! Congratulations on such a comprehensive and USEFUL resource." Joan Herbers, Ohio State University (Joan Herbers 2012-10-18) "The descriptions for the various *Formica* species groups are the best I've seen, and the drawings throughout are absolutely excellent." Adam Clark, University of Minnesota (Adam Clark 2012-10-18) "Your field guide is a really fascinating and interesting book. I like the matrix keys, at the beginning of the book and look forward to testing them with specimens. The combination of drawings and photographs provides a useful tool." Claude Pilon, Entomofaune du Québec (Claude Pilon 2012-10-19) "What a wonderful addition to the entomological world! There are so many features that make it exceptional: The keys by size on the front flyleaf, the basics of ant anatomy on the back, the arrows on the diagrams, distribution maps, interesting notes on species, the background material and biography. Delightful!" Charlene Donahue, Maine Entomological Society, President (Charlene Donahue 2012-10-22) "This book sets a gold standard" "Ground-breaking, intelligent, and innovative" "and [it] will inspire similar works for other regions around the world." Myrmecological News (Myrmecological News) "Outstanding, well-written." "Choice" (Choice) "Winner of the 2013 International Book Awards in the General Science category. (International Book Awards International Book Awards 2013-05-21) "Destined to be known, at least in myrmecological

circles, as “The New England Bible.” The Quarterly Review of Biology (The Quarterly Review of Biology) “fascinating to novices and experts alike.” Invertebrate Notes (Invertebrate Notes) “includes everything you’ve ever wished for in a field guide.” Joan Waltermire, Northern Woodlands (Joan Waltermire Northern Woodlands)

Aaron M. Ellison is senior research fellow in ecology at Harvard University’s Harvard Forest and adjunct research professor of biology and environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts. Nicholas J. Gotelli is a professor of biology at the University of Vermont. Elizabeth J. Farnsworth is senior research ecologist at New England Wild Flower Society. Gary D. Alpert is an environmental biologist on the staff of the Environmental Health and Safety Department at Harvard University.

Pardon while I gush about this book. If you are interested in ants, this book is a must have, pretty much no matter where you reside. People from outside of New England are likely to find at least a few ants in the book that also occur in their area. In the endpapers are drawings of the ant body parts that are universally used to identify ants. The book also covers general information about collecting and has a chapter on Ant Basics: Evolution, Ecology and Behavior. In addition to drawings and photographs of the ants themselves, the authors have included maps and photographs of the habitat where the ants are found. These are also helpful for narrowing down possibilities for identification. I was pleased to see that the authors have come up with common names for every species of ant they list. Let’s face it, although common names can add confusion when there are multiple animals called the same common name, or when an organism has a dozen common names, it is much easier to converse with the interested layperson or children if you have a common name to use. Most of the common names in the guide are based on the scientific name. That said, a couple of the names are a bit of a stretch. The Somewhat Hairy Fuzzy Ant does not just roll off the tongue. A Field Guide to the Ants of New England is dedicated “To everyone who wants to learn more about the ants who share our planet.” I think the authors have met their goal.

Okay ... right up front I admit I have never exactly loved ants ... but, I have always been interested in nature and the world around us. By chance I stumbled into the world of Dragonflies a few years ago

... then, had to know which they were, and all about them. I searched for and found a number of different field guides to help sate my curiosity. As an extention of that I drifted into ants ... they seemed to be everywhere and many types. Off I went with the camera seeking and finding ... but Alas, no regional guide to help me distinguish one from another ! (as in Dragons). [my apologies to E.O. Wilson, whose book Ants I did get, and do like ... but, as a guide for New England ants ... no.] Thus, this Field Guide to the Ants of New England is exactly what I had hoped for ... and more. Who knew how actually fascinating these little creatures are ... or, how important to life as we know it ?! The authors take the time to acclimate you to the necessary information relating to ants ... the where and how, etc ... as well as the ant morphology, to help your taxonomic efforts ... and, all in a simple and straight forward manner. For me it's just about perfect ... and, I am already off and ID'ing several types I've collected ... and searching for more. Now, if I could only figure out which one this large size ant with the yellow chevron on its gaster is ... but, from a picture only taken from before the Guide ?! Nice job with this book. Thanks ...Q.

This is an excellent reference for all Myrmecologists. The book itself has an excellent introduction, which features some ant natural history and collection techniques. The identification guides and matrices are very thorough, and whole book is filled with color photos and zone identifiers to aid in species identification. That being said, this book is probably only of interest to those of us who love studying ants! If you're like me, then, you'll love it! Highly recommended!

Fabulous book! Wonderfully organized and written. Who knew there was so much to know about ants?....and that there were so many different species! Especially love that it is specific to New England. This is a great book for any curious naturalist. Highly recommend!

This is a great guide to a Taxa I know very little about. The genus keys are well constructed and illustrated with clear line drawings. I'll never look at ants the same way again...

The most comprehensive book on ants in New England anywhere. Full of up to date details about every species of ant known (at this time) to live in New England. Includes tips on identifying ants and what areas need more research to find additional species likely to inhabit the New England landscape.

I picked up this book when it recommended by Brian Fisher wrote a book on ants of North America -

key to genera. He recommends both books for a class I intend to teach in July at Keystone College in LaPlume, PA. The book has great keys and good info. I wish the distribution maps covered a little further south, but it is a book on New England ants. I will let you know how it goes with the class.

An amazing piece of work by these authors and great ecologists.

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