



## Crazy Ants found in the Wet Tropics

One of the world's most invasive species, Yellow Crazy Ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*), have been detected by Biosecurity Queensland in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for the first time at Swallows Road, Edmonton.

Electric ants and Yellow Crazy Ants are listed among the world's 100 most invasive species and are considered a major bio-security risk to the WHA. WTMA has serious concerns about recent detections in the region and the potential severity of impacts in the WHA. Overseas experience has shown that the impact of these ants on the environment can be devastating. They can cause a decline in diversity and abundance of invertebrates, vertebrates and plants due to predation and competition, and their impact on ecosystem function in affected areas can be severe. Within the WHA, cassowaries, spotted-tailed quolls, and other ground-dwelling/nesting species are particularly at risk. Domestic animals, livestock, agriculture and tourism may also be affected.

WTMA, Biosecurity Queensland, and Conservation Volunteers Australia have been actively seeking funding for increased invasive ant surveillance in areas adjacent to the World Heritage Area, and WTMA is working with Biosecurity Queensland to ensure that the infestation in Edmonton is controlled swiftly and appropriately.

The main vector for spread of Electric and Yellow Crazy Ants to new areas is people, through movement of plants and vegetation. However, once established, the ants spread out in all directions from the source colony, so the quicker a colony can be detected, the better the chance of eradication. The recent wet and windy weather increases the risk of the ants spreading through movement of fallen vegetation and replacement of damaged plants. If you're buying plants, or moving vegetation around, please inspect them carefully **and abide by movement controls in affected areas**.

If you find any suspect ants, please report them immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

To learn more about these little nasties, and how to identify them, go to: [http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790\\_6653.htm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_6653.htm) (the links to the individual species and Frequently Asked Questions are very helpful).

