



Research article

A study on the potential of ants to act as vectors of foodborne pathogens

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Supplementary

The purpose of this survey is to assess the knowledge, perception and behavior of consumers regarding pest ants found in kitchens. Please be informed that all information concerning the participants will be kept strictly confidential.

Please respond to the questions below as accurately as you can

1. (i) Gender (ii) Age:
Male Female

2. Marital status:
Single Divorced
Married Others

3. Highest qualification:

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4. Do you work?
Yes No
5. What is ant infestation? (Tick one answer only)
- Presence of group of ants in multiple places in the house
 - Presence of one or two ants in the house
 - Do not know
6. Which problem is associated with ant infestation?
- A. These cause nuisances to humans (e.g damaging wooden furniture)
 - B. These transmit diseases to human
 - C. Do not know
7. If you have checked answer B above, what is the mode of disease transmission?
- Contaminate food
 - Cause infection through wounds
 - Do not know
8. According to you in what season do ants breed more?
- Summer
 - Winter
 - Do not know
9. Which type of ant is mostly found in the kitchen?
- Fire ants (“fourmi rouge”)
 - White-footed ants (“fourmi noir”)
 - Both fire and white-footed ants
 - Other ants
 - Do not know
10. Where in the kitchen are ants mostly found?
- Near window sills
 - Near sink

- Near bread-storage area
- Near pantry (food storage area)
- Near stove
- Other

11. According to you, which factor most contributes to ant infestation in kitchens?

- Food/beverages
- Rubbish
- Wooden furniture
- Puddle of water
- Other sources
- Do not know

12. Does the presence of ants bother you?

- Yes No

13. Do you see ants as a serious nuisance?

- Yes No

14. Do you think that ants are a threat to public health?

- Yes No

15. Do you have any allergy, intolerance or idiosyncrasy towards ants?

- Yes No

16. Do you know a disease or infection that is transmitted by ants?

- Yes No

17. How do you get rid of ants?

- Physical removal (e.g removal with cloth)
- Use of chemical methods (e.g use of insecticide)

Use of herbal methods (e.g use of cloves)

Other methods

18. According to you what is the best method to control ants?

Proper sanitation

Ant bait

Other method

Do not know

19. What is the main reason for ant control?

Embarrassment in front of guests

Ants transmits germs

Ant in food/beverages

Biting/stinging

20. Do you think that ants are a reservoir of disease-causing germs?

Yes

No

21. Do you think that ants are a vector of disease-causing germs?

Yes

No

22. Do you think ants can transmit germs to food?

Yes

No

23. How can you prevent food from ant cross contamination?

Storing food in refrigerator

Covering food properly

Proper sanitation of kitchen tools and surfaces

Do not know

24. What is most important pest problem according to you?

Ant problem

Rat problem

Lizard problem

Others

25. Can ants be eliminated?

Yes

No

Additional Comments:



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