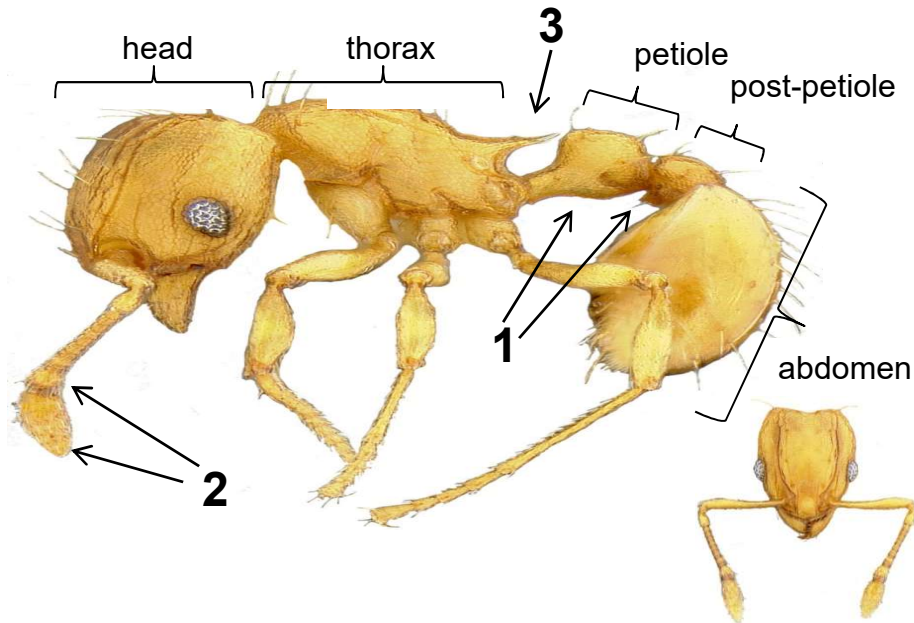


# Is it Little Fire Ant?

(After conducting the Quick Sort, use this if you have a microscope)



Look for the following features in the order listed:

1. They have two "bumps" between the thorax and abdomen (a petiole and post-petiole). Yes?, go to 2
2. The last 2 segments of the antenna are much bigger than all the others (a 2-segmented antenna club). Yes?, go to 3
3. They have two long propodeal spines—two spines protruding from the end of the thorax that are almost long enough to reach to the first "bump" (only one spine may be visible when the ant is on its side—just check its length).

If you answered "yes" to all three, or if you are unsure, take your ants to HDOA for confirmation and help—it is very difficult to tell some of these species apart, but it is very important! If you answered "no" to one of the above, look at some of the look-alikes.

## If it isn't LFA, what could it be?

(These ants are present in Hawaii and are about the same size, shape and approximate color as LFA)

### *Tetramorium similimum*



Different because:

- 3 segmented antennal club
- Short propodeal spines
- Round eyes (LFA have teardrop shape)

### *Solenopsis papuana*



Different because:

- 1<sup>st</sup> antennal segment very large
- No propodeal spines
- Tiny eyes

### *Plagiolepis alluaudi*



Different because:

- No antennal club
- No propodeal spines
- Only 1 bump between thorax and abdomen

### *Solenopsis sp. nr molesta*



Different because:

- Pale yellow color
- No propodeal spines
- Tiny eyes