



## Florida Carpenter Ants: Ant Surgeons

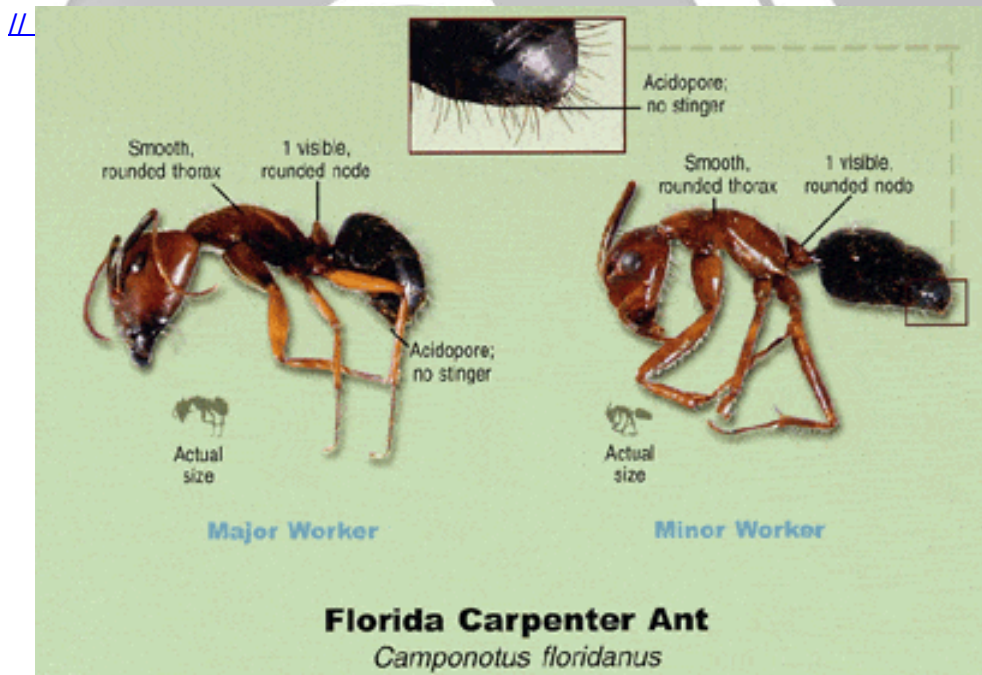
[Source: TH](#)

Recent study has revealed that **Florida carpenter ants** (*Camponotus floridanus*) perform **life-saving surgeries** on injured nestmates to improve their survival chances.

- These ants decide whether to **amputate (remove body part by surgery)** or **just clean the wound** based on the location of the injury.
  - Amputations are done for injuries **higher up the leg (femur)**, while **cleaning** is done for injuries **lower down the leg (tibia)**.
- Ants have a **bluish-greenish fluid** called **hemolymph**, similar to blood in most invertebrates. Higher leg injuries slow hemolymph flow, aiding effective amputations.
- This behaviour of ants is considered the **most sophisticated "medical system"** in the animal kingdom, rivalled only by human medical practices.

### Florida Carpenter Ants:

- They have **6 legs**, and **reddish-brown species** over **1.5 cm** long, found in the **southeastern US**.
- They nest in rotting wood and defend their nests against rival ant colonies.



Read more: [The Secret Lives of Insects](#), [Orangutan Treats Wound With Medicinal Plant](#)

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