

SPOTLIGHT

PAVEMENT ANT



Pavement ant (*Tetramorium caespitum*; also named *Tetramorium* species e) collected as it was emerging from a hole in the sand between granite pavers in Logan Circle, Center City. Head is on the left.

The length of this ant is about 3 mm (a tenth of an inch). Pavement ants were introduced into North America, perhaps in ship's ballast or in horticultural produce. Their natural history in the New World was first described in 1878, when two colonies of this species were observed engaged in a battle in Penn Square, current location of City Hall. The battle lasted over two weeks.¹