

Nematodes in the native bush ant *Prolasius advenus*.

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We have observed the native bush ant, *Prolasius advenus*, to be infected by three different species of nematodes. All three nematodes appear new to science. They appear to have a widespread distribution through the New Zealand range of bush ants. A high proportion of ant colonies are infected, and within some colonies ant infection rates of up to 37% have been observed. In laboratory trials we have managed to infect other ants with these nematodes. The nematodes may thus be present in a range of different ants. In this talk I will discuss this ant-nematode relationship and its potential influence on ant populations.

