

Invasion of the Alien Ants

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- 1 IT SOUNDS like the plot of a far-fetched science fiction movie. Unfortunately for the residents of Texas, it is very much a reality: billions of tiny reddish-brown ants have arrived onshore from a cargo ship and are hell-bent on eating anything electronic. Computers, burglar alarm systems, gas and electricity meters, iPods, telephone exchanges – all are considered food by the flea-sized ants, for reasons that have left scientists baffled.
- 2 Having ruined pumps at a sewage facility, the ants are now marching towards NASA's Johnson Space Centre and William P. Hobby airport, Houston, putting state officials in a panic. "They're itty-bitty things, and they're just running everywhere," said Patsy Morphew, a resident of Pearland, on the Gulf Coast.
- 3 She spends hours sweeping them off her patio and scooping them out of her pool by the cupful. "There's just thousands and thousands of them. If you've seen a car racing, that's how they are. They're going fast, fast, fast. They're crazy." Crazy is the right word. The ants are known as 'crazy raspberry ants': 'crazy' because they seem to move in a random scrum as opposed to marching in regimented lines, and 'raspberry' after a pioneering investigator, Tom Raspberry, who first identified them.
- 4 The ants have so far spread to five counties in the Houston area. Scientists are not sure from where they originate but they seem to be related to a type of ant from the Caribbean. "At this point it would be 8 to eradicate the ants because they are so widely dispersed," said Roger Gold, a Texas A&M University entomologist. He added that the only upside to the invasion was that the crazy raspberry ants ate fire ants, which sting humans during the long, hot Texas summers.
- 5 But, 10, the ants also like to suck the moisture from plants, feed on precious insects such as ladybirds and eat the hatchlings of a small, endangered type of grouse known as the Attwater prairie chicken. They also bite humans – although not with a sting like fire ants.
- 6 Perhaps their most remarkable characteristic, however, is that they are attracted to electrical equipment. Pest control specialists say that they are inundated with calls from homes and businesses now that the warm, humid season has begun, with literally billions of the ants wreaking havoc across the state. Worse, the ants refuse to die when sprayed with over-the-counter poison. Even killing the queen of a colony doesn't do any good, because each colony has multiple queens. The Texas Department of Agriculture says that it is working with researchers from A&M University and the Environmental Protection Agency to find new ways to 12 the ants.

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- 1p 5 Which of the following is true according to paragraph 1?
A Texans are being confronted with a huge environmental problem.
B Texans have recently experienced a disturbing number of robberies.
C Texas businessmen are expanding the import of electronic equipment.
D Texas has been chosen as the location of a new science fiction film.
- 2p 6 In de alinea's 1 en 2 worden drie verschillende woorden genoemd die aangeven hoe klein de mieren zijn.
→ *Citeer (= schrijf over in het Engels) deze drie verschillende woorden in de uitwerkbijlage.*
- 1p 7 Why are the crazy ants called 'rasberry' ants? (see paragraph 3)
A They are named after their discoverer.
B They are very fond of raspberries.
C They have a reddish colour.
D They look just like a kind of fruit.
- 1p 8 Kies bij 8 in alinea 4 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A almost a crime
B hardly advisable
C nearly impossible
D quite simple
- 1p 9 Welk voordeel van de 'rasberry ant' wordt er genoemd in alinea 4?
Geef antwoord in het Nederlands.
- 1p 10 Kies bij 10 in alinea 5 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A consequently
B similarly
C surprisingly
D unfortunately
- 2p 11 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze op grond van alinea 6 juist of onjuist is. *Omcirkel 'juist' of 'onjuist' in de uitwerkbijlage.*
1 De mieren hebben een hekel aan vochtig weer.
2 De mieren kunnen goed met huismiddeltjes bestreden worden.
3 Onderzoekers hebben een middel gevonden om de mieren uit te roeien.
4 Per kolonie hebben de mieren meerdere koninginnen.
- 1p 12 Kies bij 12 in alinea 6 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A detect
B protect
C stop
D study

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.