



International Union for the Study of Social Insects
(<http://www.iussi.org>)

European Ant Identification Workshop 2026

June, Wed. 3 – June, Sun. 7

Banyuls-sur-Mer, France

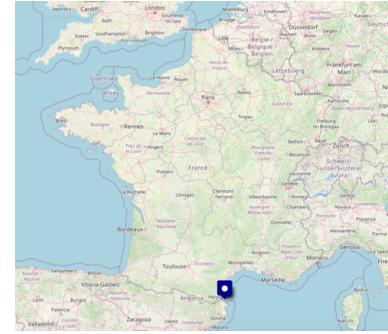
Supported and organized by the French-speaking section

The workshop primarily targets Ph.D. students and postdocs aiming to gain practical experience in the collection, identification, and diversity of European ants. The course will be held in English and is limited to 20 participants.

The registration deadline is **March 1, 2026**.

Location:

Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls-sur-Mer
1 avenue Pierre Fabre
66650 Banyuls-sur-Mer
France
<https://www.obs-banyuls.fr/en/>



Nestled along the Mediterranean coast, Banyuls-sur-Mer and its surrounding region exhibit a well-preserved Mediterranean flora and fauna. The proximity to the Pyrenees creates a unique mosaic of vegetation supporting a very diverse ant community, which contributes to the overall ecological richness of the area.

Participation fees:

Course fees are approximately estimated at 200 euros (depending on the final number of participants). Selected participants will receive further instructions via email on how to complete the payment. The fees cover food (5 meals), access to a room equipped with stereomicroscopes, and transportation into the field. Participants must cover their own lodging costs as well as all transportation costs between home and Banyuls-sur-Mer. Participants are expected to arrange their own accommodations.

Participant acceptance criteria:

The workshop primarily targets Ph.D. students and postdocs but is also open to all interested individuals (professionals, motivated amateurs, undergraduate, and graduate students). Priority will be given to applicants currently engaged in ant research. While an entomological background is advantageous, it is not a mandatory requirement.

To apply:

Please complete the following questionnaire and submit it as a single PDF file ("ParticipantName_IW.pdf") to: Abel Bernadou (abel.bernadou@utolouse.fr) and Thibaud Monnin (thibaud.monnin@cnrs.fr). **Application deadline March 1, 2026.**

Participants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible after submitting their applications. Successful candidates will have to pay the registration fees mid-April at the latest to finalize their participation.



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Course schedule: more details coming soon

Day 1 (Wednesday, June 3)

- Arrival in Banyuls-sur-Mer, and welcome: starting at 2:00 p.m.
- Workshop presentation, from 2.30 p.m.
- Introduction to general ant collecting methods.
- Visit to the Mas de la Serre Mediterranean Botanical Garden.
- Installation of pitfall traps.

Day 2 (Thursday, June 4)

- Half-day field collection around Banyuls-sur-Mer
- Specimen preparation and mounting, labeling, and conservation. Nomenclature codes.
- Introduction to ant morphological features (males, queens and workers) and use of identification keys. Presentation and identification of the main European ant subfamilies and genera.
- Preparation and identification of materials collected in the field and/or brought in by participants

Day 3 (Friday, June 5)

- Half-day field collection around Banyuls-sur-Mer
- Preparation and identification of materials collected in the field and/or brought in by participants

Day 4 (Saturday, June 6)

- Retrieval of pitfall traps set up in Mas de la Serre.
- Preparation and identification of materials collected in the field and/or brought in by participants

Day 5 (Sunday, June 7)

- Final determination session
- Departure from Banyuls-sur-Mer from 2:00 p.m.

Material needed per participant:

- Two superfine forceps (No. 5) and soft forceps
- An entomological pooter
- A storage box with a lid and plastazote base for ex. (only for participants interested in bringing back mounted specimens)

If possible:

- *Eppendorf tubes filled with 75% alcohol*
- *Field magnifier*
- *Insect pins (No. #3)*
- *Headlamp*

Book that might be useful for the workshop:

- Lebas C., Galkowski C., 2025. Cahier d'identification des fourmis de France, Belgique, Luxembourg et Suisse. Biotope Éditions, 384 pp. (In French).



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Application to the European Ant Identification Workshop 2026

Supported and organized by the French-speaking section at Banyuls-sur-Mer, France

June, Wed. 3 – June, Sun. 7

Application deadline: March 1

Applicant Details

Last Name:

First Name:

Status (PhD Student, Post-doc, Assistant Professor, etc.):

Address of Host Laboratory:

Email:

Phone Number:

Are you a member of the IUSSI? If yes, which section?

If you come by car to Banyuls, will you have any available seats in your vehicle (field collection)?

No 1 place 2 places

3 places 4 places

Field of Study, Research and motivation to join the workshop

Brief statement of your current research topic (max. 100 words).



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Research interests and motivation for taking part in the workshop. An important criterion for student selection is the explanation of how the course will influence both your current and future research activities with ants (max. 200 words).

Additional Information (for PhD Students and Post-docs)

Thesis Topic:

Thesis Supervisor:

Beginning of a Ph.D. (for Ph.D.):

Date of Thesis Defense (for Post-docs):