**Fire Ant Anatomy & Biology**

Fire ants are a common type of stinging ant that get their name from their appearance and painful sting. The body of an adult fire ant is divided into three sections:

* The head
* The thorax
* The abdomen

The fire ant also has three pairs of legs and a pair of antennas. They have a copper brown head and body and can be anywhere from 2 to 6 mm in size. Fire ants have mandibles for biting, as well as a venom-injecting sting, which injects an alkaloid venom. They use their mandibles to bite and latch on to their prey and then sting and inject their venom using the stinger on their abdomen. Fire ants, like most insects, do not have lungs. They “breathe” by taking in oxygen through openings in their abdomens called spiracles. Fire ants lifespan is about 5-7 years.