The Argentine ant, *Linepithema humile* (Mayr, 1868b) was found in two flats above a stable at RY: Sandnes (58.85°N; 5.73°E). The ants were first seen in November 2004, but not identified to species before February 2005 when a pest control company was engaged to eradicate the pest. According to the pest controller, several hundred workers were present. However, no brood, queens or males were found. The owners of the flats had recently been visiting Italy and Spain with their horses and the ants had also been observed in the trailer transporting the horses on return to Norway.

The Argentine ant is one of the world’s worst invasive alien species (www.issg.org/database). Its native distribution is limited to the Paraná River drainage in South America (Tsutsui et al. 2001, Wild 2004), but is now established in many Mediterranean and subtropical parts of the world thanks to human-mediated transport (Suarez et al. 2001; Roura-Pascual et al. 2004). Although associated with human-modified habitats (agricultural and urban zones) throughout its non-native range, the Argentine ant can also colonize natural areas with low anthropogenic disturbance causing severe ecological and economic effects (i.e. Vega & Rust 2001; Holway et al. 2002; Gómez & Oliveras 2003, Ness & Bronstein 2004).

This is the first report of Argentine ants from Norway, and at present, the most northern infestation recorded. The previous northern occurrence was in Edinburgh (55.93°N; 3.25°E) (Wild, 2004). Although there is no indication that the Argentine ants may have spread to outdoor habitats, the import and long duration of the infestation in this coastal area is worrying. Roura-Pascual et al. (2004) recently predicted the geographical potential of Argentine ants in the face of future global climate change, and indicated that higher latitude areas are becoming more vulnerable to invasion. Specifically, some isolated areas along the Norwegian coast (Bodø being the northernmost site) were predicted to present more suitable conditions for the Argentine ant in the future.
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