

CONTROLLING ANTS ON AN ENDANGERED SPECIES BREEDING SITE: TWO ANTS - TWO STRATEGIES

Michael K. Rust and Eileen O. Paine

Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, USA

California Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum browni*, is on the federal endangered species list. This small bird nests on sandy beaches found on estuaries, bays and the Pacific Ocean. This nesting behavior subjects the terns to predation and harassment by at least eight species of native and introduced ants. Environmentally sound solutions to this problem are being sought. We looked at using habitat modification for controlling Argentine Ant, *Linepethema humilis*, at one nesting site. At a second site, we used commercially available baits to reduce numbers of *Formica pilicornis*.