

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 10-00320-09-CR-W-DGK
)	
JASON LEE RICHARDSON,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the parties described below have entered into the following plea agreement:

1. The Parties. The parties to this agreement are the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Missouri (otherwise referred to as “the Government” or “the United States”), represented by Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney, and Bruce Rhoades, Assistant United States Attorney, and the defendant, Jason Lee Richardson (“the defendant”), represented by John G. Gromowsky.

The defendant understands and agrees that this plea agreement is only between him and the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, and that it does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecution authority or any other government agency, unless otherwise specified in this agreement.

2. Defendant’s Guilty Plea. The defendant agrees to and hereby does plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment charging the defendant with a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A) and 846, that is, conspiracy to distribute 5 kilos or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine and pleads guilty to Count Two, a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (h), that is conspiracy to commit money laundering. By entering into this plea agreement, the

defendant admits that he knowingly committed these offenses, and is in fact guilty of these offenses.

Further, the defendant admits the allegations of forfeiture and money judgment contained in the indictment.

3. Factual Basis for Guilty Plea. The parties agree that the facts constituting the offenses to which the defendant is pleading guilty are as follows:

In early 2008, the DEA and KCMOPD began an investigation into a loosely affiliated crack distribution ring operating in Kansas City, Missouri. That investigation eventually lead to a number of arrests and indictments and resulted in several cooperators.

In the Spring and Summer of 2009, one of those cooperators began buying crack and powder cocaine from their Hispanic sources within the Western District of Missouri. Eventually, the cooperator worked up to buying direct from defendant **JUAN MARRON, a/k/a CASPER**. Over the course of several months sufficient probable cause was obtained to initiate Title III wire interceptions on **MARRON**'s phone in November 2009, and May and June of 2010. This indictment is a result of that investigation. **MARRON** was determined to be the main supplier for most of the indictees herein and **MARRON** had one main source, co-defendant **DAVID HERNANDEZ MONTOYA**, and a few smaller, as needed, suppliers. While **MARRON** was mainly an ounce cocaine (crack and powder) supplier and pound marijuana supplier, he would try to accommodate whatever anyone wanted, with varying results.

Count One: distribution conspiracy: This count involves all the defendants and is based upon intercepted calls on the Title III's, interviews of non-indicted cooperators, post-arrest statements of several indictees, various SOI's, recorded calls related to controlled drug buys or attempted buys, several controlled drug buys, drug seizures, and other corroborating information gathered by investigators. This count includes activities between **MARRON** and others where either **MARRON** would distribute cocaine or marijuana to them or obtain cocaine or marijuana from them, both for further distribution. It also involves attempted, planned, or conspired distribution activities. Specifically to Defendant **RICHARDSON**, it includes a series of actions over several days where **RICHARDSON** conspired with **MARRON**, and an un-charged co-conspirator, to acquire from **MARRON**, for later distribution to others, six kilos of powder cocaine. Also, it was known to **RICHARDSON** from the statements and actions of **MARRON** that **MARRON** was conspiring with others to obtain the six kilos to distribute to **RICHARDSON**. While the total conspiracy weight (historical and actual) exceeds several kilograms of cocaine, 1000 kilograms of marijuana, and more than 28 grams of crack cocaine, Defendant **RICHARDSON**'s involvement is only known to have involved this specific transaction and therefore, **RICHARDSON**'s accountability should be determined to be below the total level of the entire conspiracy due to his involvement in just this one act of the conspiracy. Therefore, while the parties agree that **RICHARDSON**'s drug level *cannot* be less than a level 32, the minimum level in 2D1.1 for the charge to which he is pleading,

the parties further agree that they are free to address the drug level at sentencing should the pre-sentence investigation report or the Court determine a drug level other than a level 32.

Count Two: Money laundering conspiracy: This count involves all the defendants and is based on the same evidence as set out in the conspiracy count above, and the taking of various items and U.S. currency in payment for drug debts to **MARRON** and **MONTOYA** and specific statements of some defendants and others about using drug proceeds to promote further distribution. Specifically, **MARRON** would obtain money from his and other co-conspirators distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and crack and then use some or all of those drug-distribution proceeds to purchase further amounts of controlled substances from **HERNANDEZ-MONTOYA** and others for further distribution. **RICHARDSON** conspired to commit money laundering by discussing payment arrangements with **MARRON**, including what **MARRON** was going to charge and what **RICHARDSON** was going to profit.

4. Use of Factual Admissions and Relevant Conduct. The defendant acknowledges, understands and agrees that the admissions contained in Paragraph 3 and other portions of this plea agreement will be used for the purpose of determining defendant's guilt and advisory sentencing range under the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G."), including the calculation of the defendant's offense level in accordance with U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3(a)(2). The defendant acknowledges, understands and agrees that the conduct charged in any dismissed counts of the indictment as well as all other uncharged related criminal activity may be considered as "relevant conduct" pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3(a)(2) in calculating the offense level for the charges to which defendant is pleading guilty.

5. Statutory Penalties. The defendant understands that upon pleading guilty to Count One of the indictment which charges the defendant with a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A) and 846, that is, conspiracy to distribute 5 kilos or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine, the minimum penalty the Court may impose is not less than 10 years while the maximum penalty the Court may impose is not more than life imprisonment and not more than a \$10,000,000.00 fine; and that the Court shall impose not less than five (5) years of supervised release. The defendant further understands that this offense is a Class A felony.

The defendant further understands that upon pleading guilty to Count Two of the indictment charging the defendant with a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (h), that is, conspiracy to commit money laundering, the maximum penalty the Court may impose is not more than 20 years of imprisonment, not more than a \$500,000.00 fine and not more than three years of supervised release and that this offense is a Class C felony.

Also, the defendant understands that for each count of conviction the Court shall impose a \$100 mandatory special assessment which must be paid in full prior to the time of sentencing. Failure to pay said assessment timely will result in the Government seeking a continuance of the sentencing until it is paid OR, in the alternative, the Government will consider the failure to pay it as a violation of this plea agreement and seek to have this agreement voided.

6. Sentencing Procedures. The defendant acknowledges, understands and agrees to the following:

a. in determining the appropriate sentence, the Court will consult and consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission; these Guidelines, however, are advisory in nature, and the Court may impose a sentence either less than or greater than the defendant's applicable Guidelines range, unless the sentence imposed is "unreasonable";

b. the Court will determine the defendant's applicable Sentencing Guidelines range at the time of sentencing;

c. in addition to a sentence of imprisonment, the Court shall impose a term of supervised release of not less than five (5) years;

d. if the defendant violates a condition of supervised release, the Court may revoke that supervised release and impose an additional period of imprisonment without credit for time previously spent on supervised release. In addition to a new term of imprisonment, the Court also may impose a new period of supervised release;

e. the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, including a sentence that is outside of, or departs from, the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range;

f. any sentence of imprisonment imposed by the Court will not allow for parole;

g. the Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the sentence to be imposed or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Office;

h. the defendant may not withdraw this guilty plea solely because of the nature or length of the sentence imposed by the Court;

i. The defendant agrees that the United States may institute civil, judicial or administrative forfeiture proceedings against all forfeitable assets in which the defendant has an interest, and that defendant will not contest any such forfeiture proceedings;

7. Government's Agreements. Based upon evidence in its possession at this time, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, as part of this plea agreement, agrees not to bring any additional charges against defendant for any federal criminal offenses related to the charges defendant has pled to herein for which it has venue and which arose out of the defendant's conduct described above.

The defendant recognizes that the United States' agreement to forego prosecution of all of the criminal offenses with which the defendant might be charged is based solely on the promises made by the defendant in this agreement and the limitations set out herein. If the defendant breaches this plea agreement, the United States retains the right to proceed with the original charges and any other criminal violations established by the evidence. The defendant expressly waives any right to challenge the initiation of the dismissed or additional charges against defendant if defendant breaches this agreement. The defendant expressly waives any right to assert a statute of limitations defense if the dismissed or additional charges are initiated against defendant following a breach of this agreement. The defendant further understands and agrees that if the Government elects to file additional charges against defendant following breach of this plea agreement, defendant will not be allowed to withdraw this guilty plea.

The defendant understands that this plea agreement does not foreclose any prosecution for an act of murder, attempted murder, or conspiracy to commit murder; an act, attempted act or

conspiracy to commit an act of physical or sexual violence; nor does it foreclose prosecution of any criminal activity of which the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri has no knowledge. The defendant understands and agrees that if the Government files additional charges against defendant for one of these exceptions, defendant will not be allowed to withdraw this guilty plea.

8. Preparation of Presentence Report. The defendant understands the United States will provide to the Court and the United States Probation Office a government version of the offense conduct. This may include information concerning the background, character, and conduct of the defendant, including the entirety of defendant's criminal activities. The defendant understands these disclosures are not limited to the counts or acts to which defendant has pleaded guilty. The United States may respond to comments made or positions taken by the defendant, defendant's counsel or anyone on defendant's behalf and to correct any misstatements or inaccuracies. The United States further reserves its right to make any recommendations it deems appropriate regarding the disposition of this case, subject only to any limitations set forth in this plea agreement. The United States and the defendant expressly reserve the right to speak to the Court at the time of sentencing pursuant to Rule 32(i)(4) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

9. Withdrawal of Plea. Either party reserves the right to withdraw from this plea agreement for any or no reason at any time prior to the entry of the defendant's plea of guilty and its formal acceptance by the Court. In the event of such withdrawal, the parties will be restored to their pre-plea agreement positions to the fullest extent possible. However, after the plea has been formally accepted by the Court, the defendant may only withdraw these pleas of guilty if the Court rejects the plea agreement or if the defendant can show a fair and just reason for requesting the withdrawal. The defendant understands that if the Court accepts defendant's pleas of guilty and

this plea agreement but subsequently imposes a sentence that is outside the defendant's applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, or imposes a sentence that the defendant does not expect, like or agree with, that will not permit defendant to withdraw these pleas of guilty.

10. Agreed Guidelines Applications. With respect to the application of the Sentencing Guidelines to this case, the parties stipulate and agree as follows:

a. The Sentencing Guidelines do not bind the Court and are advisory in nature. The Court may impose a sentence that is either above or below the defendant's applicable Guidelines range, provided the sentence imposed is not "unreasonable";

b. The applicable Guidelines section for the offense of conviction is U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1, which, for a conviction under 21 USC §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A) and 846, requires a *minimum* base offense level 32; however, the parties recognize the probation office and the Court have the authority to potentially make a determination, from the facts of the case and application of the law, of a higher level than that minimum base offense level and if such higher level is determined, the parties reserve the right to address at sentencing that probation or Court determined level;

c. The parties agree that a two-level increase for the money laundering conspiracy conviction is appropriate. While the parties recognize there *might* be other specific aggravating or mitigating U.S.S.G. applications applicable to this defendant, the parties elect to address those at sentencing whether or not applied by the pre-sentence report or Court;

d. The defendant appears to have admitted his guilt and accepted responsibility for his actions, and by timely notifying authorities of the intention to enter a plea of guilty has thereby permitted the Government to avoid preparing for trial and permitted the Government and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. Therefore, the defendant appears entitled to a three-level reduction pursuant to § 3E1.1(b) of the Sentencing Guidelines and the Government, at the time of sentencing, will make a motion with the Court to that effect unless the defendant (1) fails to abide by all of the terms and conditions of this plea agreement, any addendums, and any pretrial release orders; or (2) attempts to withdraw this guilty plea; or (3) violates the law; or (4) otherwise engages in conduct inconsistent with an acceptance of responsibility;

e. There is no agreement between the parties regarding the defendant's criminal history category. The parties agree that the Court will determine the applicable criminal history category after receipt of the presentence investigation report prepared by the United States Probation Office;

f. The defendant understands that the estimate of the parties with respect to the Guidelines computation set forth in the subsections of this paragraph does not

bind the Court or the United States Probation Office with respect to the appropriate Guidelines levels. Additionally, the failure of the Court to accept these stipulations will not, as outlined in Paragraph 9 of this plea agreement, provide the defendant with a basis to withdraw this plea of guilty;

g. The defendant consents to judicial fact-finding by a preponderance of the evidence for all issues pertaining to the determination of the defendant's sentence, including the determination of any mandatory minimum sentence (including the facts that support any specific offense characteristic or other enhancement or adjustment), and any legally authorized increase above the normal statutory maximum. The defendant waives any right to a jury determination beyond a reasonable doubt of all facts used to determine and enhance the sentence imposed, and waives any right to have those facts alleged in the indictment. The defendant also agrees that the Court, in finding the facts relevant to the imposition of sentence, may consider any reliable information, including hearsay; and

h. The defendant understands and agrees that the factual admissions contained in Paragraph 3 or other places within this plea agreement, and any admissions made during the defendant's plea colloquy, support the imposition of the agreed-upon Guidelines calculations contained in this agreement.

11. Effect of Non-Agreement on Guidelines Applications. The parties understand, acknowledge and agree that there are no agreements between the parties with respect to any Sentencing Guidelines issues other than those specifically listed in Paragraph 10, and its subsections. As to any other Guidelines issues, the parties are free to advocate their respective positions at the sentencing hearing.

12. Change in Guidelines Prior to Sentencing. The defendant agrees that if any applicable provision of the Guidelines changes after the execution of this plea agreement, then any request by defendant to be sentenced pursuant to the new Guidelines will make this plea agreement voidable by the United States at its option. If the Government exercises its option to void the plea agreement, the United States may charge, reinstate, or otherwise pursue any and all criminal charges that could have been brought but for this plea agreement.

13. Government's Reservation of Rights. The defendant understands that the United States expressly reserves the right in this case to:

- a. oppose or take issue with any position advanced by defendant, or anyone on behalf of the defendant, at the sentencing hearing which might be inconsistent with the provisions of this plea agreement;
- b. comment on the evidence supporting the charges in the indictment;
- c. oppose any arguments and requests for relief the defendant, or anyone on defendant's behalf, might advance on an authorized appeal from the sentences imposed and that the United States remains free on appeal or collateral proceedings to defend the legality and propriety of the sentence actually imposed, even if the Court chooses not to follow any recommendation made by the United States; and
- d. oppose any post-conviction motions for reduction of sentence, or other relief.

14. Waiver of Constitutional Rights. The defendant, by pleading guilty, acknowledges that defendant has been advised of, understands, and knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- a. the right to plead not guilty and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
- b. the right to be presumed innocent until defendant's guilt has been established beyond a reasonable doubt at trial;
- c. the right to a jury trial, and at that trial, the right to the effective assistance of counsel;
- d. the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses who testify against the defendant;
- e. the right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on defendant's behalf; and
- f. the right to remain silent at trial, in which case that silence may not be used against defendant.

The defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he waives or gives up those rights and that there will be no trial. The defendant further understands that if he pleads guilty, the Court may ask questions about the offense or offenses to which defendant pleaded guilty, and if the defendant answers those questions under oath and in the presence of counsel, those answers may later be used against defendant in a prosecution for perjury or making a false statement. The

defendant also understands he has pleaded guilty to a felony offense and, as a result, will lose the right to possess a firearm or ammunition and might be deprived of other rights, such as the right to vote or register to vote, hold public office, or serve on a jury.

15. Waiver of Appellate and Post-Conviction Rights.

a. The defendant acknowledges, understands and agrees that by his *unconditional* plea of guilty pursuant to this plea agreement he waives the right to appeal or collaterally attack a finding of guilt following the acceptance of this plea agreement, except on grounds of (1) ineffective assistance of counsel; or (2) prosecutorial misconduct.

b. The defendant expressly waives the right to appeal any sentence, directly or collaterally, on any ground except claims of (1) ineffective assistance of counsel; (2) prosecutorial misconduct; or (3) an illegal sentence. An “illegal sentence” includes a sentence imposed in excess of the statutory maximum, but does *not* include less serious sentencing errors, such as a misapplication of the Sentencing Guidelines, an abuse of discretion, or the imposition of an unreasonable sentence. However, if the United States exercises its right to appeal the sentence imposed as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), the defendant is released from this waiver and may, as part of the Government’s appeal, cross-appeal the sentence as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a) with respect to any issues that have not been stipulated to or agreed upon in this agreement.

16. Financial Obligations.

By entering into this plea agreement, the defendant states an understanding of and agrees to the following financial obligations:

a. The United States may use the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act and any other remedies provided by law to enforce any restitution order that may be entered as part of the sentence in this case and to collect any fine or costs.

b. The defendant will fully and truthfully disclose all assets and property in which defendant has any interest, or over which the defendant exercises control directly or indirectly, including assets and property held by a spouse, nominee or other third party. The defendant’s disclosure obligations are ongoing, and are in force from the execution of this agreement until the defendant has satisfied the restitution or fine or costs order in full.

c. Within 10 days of the execution of this plea agreement, at the request of the USAO, the defendant agrees to execute and submit (1) a Tax Information Authorization form; (2) an Authorization to Release Information; (3) a completed financial disclosure statement; and (4) copies of financial information that the defendant submits to the U.S. Probation Office. The defendant understands that

compliance with these requests will be taken into account when the United States makes a recommendation to the Court regarding the defendant's acceptance of responsibility.

d. At the request of the USAO, the defendant agrees to undergo any polygraph examination the United States might choose to administer concerning the identification and recovery of substitute assets, restitution, fines, or costs.

e. The defendant hereby authorizes the USAO to obtain a credit report pertaining to defendant to assist the USAO in evaluating the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligations imposed as part of the sentence.

f. The defendant understands that a Special Assessment will be imposed as part of the sentence in this case. The defendant promises to pay the Special Assessment of **\$200.00** by submitting a satisfactory form of payment to the Clerk of the Court prior to appearing for the sentencing proceeding in this case. The defendant agrees to provide the Clerk's receipt as evidence of fulfillment of this obligation at the time of sentencing.

g. The defendant certifies that no transfer of assets or property has been made for the purpose of (1) evading financial obligations created by this Agreement; (2) evading obligations that may be imposed by the Court; nor (3) hindering efforts of the USAO to enforce such financial obligations. Moreover, the defendant promises that no such transfers will be made in the future.

h. In the event the United States learns of any misrepresentation in the financial disclosure statement, or of any asset in which the defendant had an interest at the time of this plea agreement that is not disclosed in the financial disclosure statement, and in the event such misrepresentation or nondisclosure changes the estimated net worth of the defendant by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or more, the United States may at its option: (1) choose to be relieved of its obligations under this plea agreement; or (2) let the plea agreement stand, collect the full forfeiture, restitution, and fines imposed by any criminal or civil judgment, and also collect 100% (one hundred percent) of the value of any previously undisclosed assets. The defendant agrees not to contest any collection of such assets. In the event the United States opts to be relieved of its obligations under this plea agreement, the defendant's previously entered pleas of guilty shall remain in effect and cannot be withdrawn.

17. Waiver of FOIA Request. The defendant waives any and all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

18. Waiver of Claim for Attorney's Fees. The defendant waives any and all claims under the Hyde Amendment, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, for attorney's fees and other litigation expenses arising out of the investigation or prosecution of this matter.

19. Defendant Will Surrender to Custody at the Plea. The defendant understands that the crime to which he is pleading in Count One of the Indictment is an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act. Accordingly, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3143(a)(2), the Court must detain the defendant after he pleads guilty to the offense. The defendant hereby agrees not to contest his detention immediately after the guilty plea, and to surrender to the custody of the U.S. Marshals at that time.

20. Defendant's Breach of Plea Agreement. If the defendant commits any crimes, violates any conditions of release, or violates any term of this plea agreement between the signing of this plea agreement and the date of sentencing, or fails to appear for sentencing, or if the defendant provides information to the Probation Office or the Court that is intentionally misleading, incomplete, or untruthful, or otherwise breaches this plea agreement, the United States will be released from its obligations under this agreement. The defendant, however, will remain bound by the terms of the agreement, and will not be allowed to withdraw this plea of guilty.

The defendant also understands and agrees that in the event this plea agreement is violated, all statements made by the defendant to law enforcement agents subsequent to the execution of this plea agreement, any testimony given by defendant before a grand jury or any tribunal or any leads from such statements or testimony shall be admissible against defendant in any and all criminal proceedings. The defendant waives any and all rights under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, or any other federal rule that pertains to the admissibility of any statements made by defendant subsequent to this plea agreement.

21. Defendant's Representations. The defendant acknowledges that he has entered into this plea agreement freely and voluntarily after receiving the effective assistance, advice and approval of counsel. The defendant acknowledges that he is satisfied with the assistance of counsel, and that counsel has fully advised him of his rights and obligations in connection with this plea agreement. The defendant further acknowledges that no threats or promises, other than the promises contained in this plea agreement, have been made by the United States, the Court, his attorneys or any other party to induce him to enter this plea of guilty.

22. No Undisclosed Terms. The United States and defendant acknowledge and agree that the above-stated terms and conditions, together with any written supplemental agreement that might be presented to the Court in camera, constitute the entire plea agreement between the parties, and that any other terms and conditions not expressly set forth in this agreement or any written supplemental agreement do not constitute any part of the parties' agreement and will not be enforceable against either party.

23. Standard of Interpretation. The parties agree that, unless the constitutional implications inherent in plea agreements require otherwise, this plea agreement should be interpreted according to general contract principles and the words employed are to be given their normal and ordinary meanings. The parties further agree that, in interpreting this agreement, any drafting errors or ambiguities are not to be automatically construed against either party, whether or not that party was involved in drafting or modifying this agreement.

Tammy Dickinson
United States Attorney

04/18/2013
Dated: _____

/s/ Bruce Rhoades

Bruce Rhoades
Assistant United States Attorney

I have consulted with my attorneys and fully understand all of my rights with respect to the offenses charged in the indictment. Further, I have consulted with my attorneys and fully understand my rights with respect to the provisions of the Sentencing Guidelines and any statutory minimums. I have read this plea agreement and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorneys. I understand this plea agreement and I voluntarily agree to it.

04/18/2013
Dated: _____

/s/ Jason Lee Richardson

Jason Lee Richardson
Defendant

I am defendant Jason Lee Richardson's attorney. I have fully explained his rights to him with respect to the offenses charged in the indictment. Further, I have reviewed with him the provisions of the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines and any statutory minimum sentences which might apply in his case. I have carefully reviewed every part of this plea agreement with the defendant. To my knowledge and belief, Jason Lee Richardson's decision to enter into this plea agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

04/18/2013
Dated: _____

/s/ John G. Gromowsky

John G. Gromowsky
Attorney for Defendant