

Bull-ants do climb trees, and they will attack anything and everything that comes in their way, but why they should pull down and bury the beetles alive is a mystery that Lowne does not explain. There is no reason whatever for such action. From my own observations, these ants carry home every insect they capture; but the victims, as a rule, are honey-bees, and other soft-bodied insects, taken to feed the larvæ in the nest. I have never known adult Bull-ants to eat animal food; they always prefer the nectar of blossoms and the exudation of trees, shrubs, etc. In my artificial nests the food supplied is honey, sugar in various forms, and cake of all sorts, with plenty of water each day; also a quantity of insects and caterpillars for the larvæ. Although the adult Bull-ant is really a honey-eater, the larvæ must have an insect diet, or they will eat one another when close together. On more than one occasion, when the food supply was overlooked, I found that one larva had apparently been supplied as food to other two by the ants; and several times weak, or injured, ants have been served to the larvæ. When the larvæ have finished their feeding on the insect body, its remains are carried outside the nest to the rubbish-heap, where, in the bush, they are promptly removed by other ants. Thus, a Bull-ants' nest very rarely shows signs of food remains, either inside or out.

Lowne's observation, that these ants jump from trees on to a person, is quite correct, as most bush lovers know; but the statement that the Jumper, *nigrocincta*, can jump over a foot of ground requires verification. I have not seen one jump more than four inches, and that is more than twice the usual length of the Jumper's "leap."

Apart from the Bull-ants, there are many species that will reward study, such as the Harvesting Ants, which collect, and store in their nests as food, seed of various plants, including grasses. Very little is known concerning "Harvesters" in Australia. In other parts of the world, there are Fungus-growing Ants. These insects strip the leaves off trees to make the beds on which they raise the fungus. So far, this habit has not been discovered in any Australian species.

The nests of most ants contain numbers of other insects, mostly beetles. Although numbers of these insects have been collected in Australia, we possess only meagre knowledge concerning them, or the reasons for their presence in the nests