

*Atta texana* (Buckley)

So far as known, the Texas leaf-cutting ant in the United States is confined to Texas and Louisiana. Its exact and detailed range has not yet been mapped. The ant may be said to occupy much of the area of Texas and Louisiana lying between the 101st degree of longitude in Texas and the 92.5th degree of longitude in Louisiana. In Texas this would include much of the area east of the 101st degree of longitude from the extreme southern border to almost the Oklahoma boundary line, with an extension into at least two States in northeastern Mexico. In Louisiana the following 13 parishes are definitely known to be infested: Bienville, Webster, Sabine, Vernon, Beauregard, Allen, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Rapides, Natchitoches, Grant, Lasalle, and Winn. In Mexico, the species is known from *Tamaulipas*: Matamoros (R. L. McGarr). *Veracruz*: Veracruz (N. L. H. Krauss); 2 miles south of Mocambo (D. H. Janzen); Tecolutla (collector?).

*A. texana* does not have the wide distribution nor the great adaptability to various environments that *mexicana* has. It seems to show a decided preference for nesting in sandy or sandy loam soils but is also capable of nesting in heavy soils and in those of limestone origin. As early as 1907, Wheeler published excellent descriptions and figures of most castes of this ant and also gave an interesting account of certain phases of its general biology. Although *texana* has been known for many years to have habits similar to the Neotropical species of *Atta*, very little research has been done or published on *texana* by State and Federal agencies until recent years.

About 1935 the Southern Forest Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, New Orleans, Louisiana, began control work on this ant in the Kisatchie National Forest of Louisiana after recognizing it as an important pest of young pines, especially those used in reforestation. Begun under the direction of T. E. Snyder, these investigations resulted in publications by him (1937 and by M. R. Smith (1939)). A more comprehensive paper on the biology and control of this ant was prepared by Walter, Seaton, and Mathewson (1938) of the Entomology Research Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Investigational and control work is being continued in the Kisatchie National Forest; much of the research work on biology is under the field direction of J. C. Moser. In early control work carbon bisulphide was used as a nest fumigant with considerable success. The chemical, however, had to be applied from late fall to early spring when the ants were concentrated in their nests and inactive. Johnson (1944) recommended methyl bromide as an even more effective nest fumigant. This method of control is now universally employed.

*Atta mexicana* (F. Sm.)

This species is known from only one locality in the United States, the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona (Byars, 1949). It was found in March 1946 near a gravel pit 5 miles north of the