

and annoying of all the ants was *C. cerasi*, which originally nested in a locust tree (riddled with burrows of *Megacyllene robiniae* (Foerster)) growing within a few feet of the front of the house. After the tree was removed, the ants occurred in great numbers on the English ivy that covered most of the walls of the house. The ants seemed to derive most, if not all, of their food from the honeydew excreted by aphids on these vines. At this time I could not be sure where the ants were nesting, but I did see them enter and leave small holes in the mortar between the bricks composing the walls of the house. I am strongly of the opinion that many of the holes were made by the ants themselves. After having had ivy on the house for many years and frequent trouble with ants invading the kitchen, I decided to remove all the ivy except a small amount on the front of the house. After that, the ants ceased to infest the kitchen, and I cannot now recall when I last had an infestation there.

Housekeepers frequently wonder why they have ants in their homes, and are greatly perplexed as to where they come from. Ants are often accidentally brought into the house by the housekeeper herself; for example, on firewood stored in the basement. Such firewood, if faulty or in the proper stage of decay, can harbor colonies of the carpenter ant *Camponotus* spp., acrobatic ants (*Crematogaster* spp.), and others. Stray workers of many species of ants can be brought into the house on fruits from the orchard, vegetables from the garden, or even on laundry baskets from the yard. Small species like the Pharaoh ant are ideally adapted for new nesting sites, and can be transported in parcel post packages, grocery packages, trunks, and other objects. Most ants nest in the soil, in wood, or in other places outdoors, and infest houses from there. Sometimes it is possible to locate the outside trail leading from the ant's nest to the house, but in many cases this is very difficult or impossible. Infestations originating outdoors normally occur in the warm seasons of the year and are, as a rule, seldom severe or long-lasting. Several species of ants that normally nest outdoors, have become adapted to nesting in the woodwork or masonry of houses. Their presence in such places can often be determined by the frequent and numerous individuals seen at various periods of the year, even during cold weather, and by extraneous material such as wood fiber, gravel, seeds, and bodies of dead insects thrown out from holes in the woodwork and masonry. At certain periods of the year, the colonies may give rise to numerous winged males or females, or both; housekeepers often mistake them for termites (see p. 2).

Although sanitation and care will frequently keep ants from infesting a home, *they are not sure preventives*. Any housekeeper who fails to wash her dishes and pots immediately after they are used, or who leaves open containers on the cabinet shelves or tables, or allows children to spill food on the table or floor, is simply inviting ant trouble. Care should be taken at all times to keep from accidentally bringing ants into the house from outdoors, or from having them infest the house because of dirty dishes, open containers, or food carelessly spilled. If a homeowner allows certain areas of the woodwork of the house to become faulty or rotten from moisture or other causes, various species of ants may be expected to colonize there, especially the black carpenter ant *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (DeGeer), lesser carpenter ants