

Camponotus (*Myrmentoma*) spp., and certain species of acrobatic ants, *Crematogaster* spp. Piles of litter or compost, if left undisturbed for any length of time, form ideal nesting places for such ants as the Argentine ant *Iridomyrmex humilis* (Mayr), the odorous house ant *Tapinoma sessile* (Say), and the southern fire ant *Solenopsis xyloni* McCook. The general environment outside the house, both natural and man-made, has a great deal to do with whether or not the house will be infested; and if so, by what species of ants. Houses in heavily wooded areas, for instance, are especially subject to infestation by the black carpenter ant, whereas homes in open areas may expect infestations from such ants as the southern fire ant *Lasius neoniger* Emery, and others.

Collecting, Shipping, and Identifying Ants

The ideal way to submit ants for identification is to place a number of clean, uncrushed, live specimens in a 70-percent (or higher) solution of ethyl alcohol in a small bottle or vial. The ants will die within a few minutes. *Never use formaldehyde* because this chemical is too irritating to the eyes and nose of the determiner. Cheap cologne or bay rum will serve, but only as a last resort. The bottle or vial should then be carefully wrapped in soft paper, cotton, or similar material and enclosed in a fully addressed mailing tube or strong cardboard box completely addressed to the individual or organization expected to make the identification. The name and address of the sender should always appear, and the addresses should be legible. The ants themselves should never be placed directly in contact with loose cotton because their antennae, legs, maxillary and labial palpi become entangled in, and broken by, the cotton fibers; without these appendages in perfect condition it is very difficult, often impossible, to make accurate determinations. If preserving fluids are not available, place the specimens between layers of soft paper, such as facial tissue, and enclose in a small but strong cardboard box or mailing tube. An accompanying letter should give all possible details concerning the infestation, especially whether or not the ants have previously infested the house, and if so, for approximately how long; what areas are infested, the period or periods of the year during which the infestations occur, nature of damage, foods preferred, and whether the ants are nesting inside or outside the house.

The specimens described in this paper were studied with a Spencer² stereoscopic binocular microscope equipped with 9 X oculars and 2.3, 4.8, 6.8 objectives, which gave magnifications of 20.7 X, 43.2 X, and 61.2 X, respectively. The magnification most commonly used was 43.2 X for ants varying in size from approximately 2.5 to 6 mm.; above this size the 20.7 X magnification seemed best for the very large ants, such as species of *Camponotus*. The light employed was a General Electric² No. 82 bulb. These data are furnished because it is very important that the person who is identifying ants either have similar

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