

The hardiness of these ants is almost beyond belief. Fielde found that 50 percent of the ants survived for 70 hours while submerged in water, but none survived 95 hours of this treatment. A beheaded worker was kept alive for 41 days. McCook reported the ants capable of surviving 48 hours of freezing on ice, and Weber has stated that although this species was driven out, or almost exterminated from certain drought areas in the 1930's, the ants soon repopulated the areas after the return of normal conditions.

Although black carpenter ants are usually not regarded as being aggressive or vicious, especially in their relation to other species, Rau, the author, and others have witnessed pitched battles between what was thought to be two alien colonies of this species, resulting in innumerable dead and injured ants that had been cut to pieces by the strong mandibles of other workers. One could find numerous specimens with a gaster, head, or part or all of the antennae and legs completely cut off, as if someone had used a pair of sharp scissors.

A native ant such as the black carpenter ant, which nests in trees, logs, stumps, poles, and other wood or wood products, is expected to be distributed by commerce. England and New Zealand especially, have reported the introduction of black carpenter ants. No doubt the species frequently has been carried into many countries by commerce, but so far as I am aware, it has failed to establish itself.

The ants are parasitized by at least two species of flies belonging to the family Phoridae. One of the best known is *Apocephalus pergandei* Coquillett. The larva of *pergandei* feeds on the interior of the head of a living ant until the ant succumbs from the attack. As Wheeler so aptly put it, the larva causes the ant to "literally lose its head." The parasitic fungi *Cordyceps unilateralis* (Tulasne), *Desmidiospora myrmecophila* Thaxter, and *Beauveria globulifera* Speg. attack this ant. An ant killed by *C. unilateralis* bears a conspicuous stalk on which is borne an enlarged fruiting body. The fruiting body of *lateralis* is attached to the side of the stalk. None of these parasites, insect or fungus, seem to exert any appreciable effect in controlling the population of the black carpenter ant.

References: McCook, 1876, pp. 277-289; McCook, 1883, pp. 303-307; Fielde, 1904, pp. 170-174; Pricer, 1908, pp. 177-218; Davis, 1908, pp. 10-12; Snyder, 1910, p. 8; Malloch, 1912, pp. 411-529; Mitchell and Pierce, 1912, pp. 67-76; Gaige, 1914, pp. 25-28; Graham, 1918, pp. 32-40; Davis and Bequaert, 1922, pp. 22-23; Bequaert, 1922, pp. 389-401; Wheeler, 1926, pp. 10, 83, 85, 131, 188, 189, 191, 208, 393, 407, 417, 419, 422, 453; Donisthorpe, 1927, pp. 401, 403; Rau, 1934, p. 215; Friend and Carlson, 1937, pp. 913-929, figs.; Friend, 1942, pp. 12, 14; Townsend, 1945, pp. 1-27; Gregg, 1946, p. 753 (footnote); Creighton, 1950, p. 16; Simeone, 1954, pp. 1-19; Van Pelt, 1963, p. 212.

Camponotus ferrugineus (Fabricius)

Red carpenter ant. The selection of the ESA-approved common name "red carpenter ant," for this species was unfortunate, in my opinion, since it may cause confusion with *Camponotus noveboracensis* (Fitch), which is largely red (thorax, petiole). A name more closely agreeing with the scientific name and coloring would have been the "rust-colored carpenter ant." This native species ranges from Nebraska to New York, south to Georgia.