

the anterior border of which is broadly but weakly emarginate. Clypeus with a rather distinct carina. Abdominal pedicel composed of a single segment, the petiole. Cloacal orifice terminal, circular, surrounded by a fringe of hairs (fig. 48, co). Sting lacking. Workers capable of emitting a distinct formic acid odor. *Specific characters:* Large ants, workers 5.5–10 mm. long. Scape with scattered suberect or erect hairs. Head subopaque or opaque; thorax, petiole, and gaster shiny. Head reddish, thorax and petiole yellowish or yellowish-red, scape and gaster blackish or black, quite often base of first gastric segment yellowish or yellowish-red. Legs with numerous suberect hairs which, although long, are shorter than those on body. Body with abundant, long, suberect or erect yellowish hairs. In some lights gaster has grayish or violaceous cast. Species readily distinguished by its characteristic color and pilosity.

Biology and Economic Importance

This subspecies commonly nests in the ground beneath objects, in dead branches of trees, and in and beneath rotting logs and stumps. However, the ants are highly adaptive in their nesting habits and in their choice of ecological habitats. Colonies are moderate to large in size. In Florida, nuptial flights apparently occur most commonly from June to August. New colonies are founded by a single fertilized female, independent of aid from workers. It is normal for a colony to have a single reproductive female. Under natural conditions the ants feed largely on small insects and honeydew, and may eat both live or dead insects. They tend plant lice, mealybugs, and scales. Workers are active both day and night. The aggressive, pugnacious habits of the workers have earned for them the common name "bull dog" ants. While on some occasions it definitely appears that the ants have invaded houses from outdoors, there is not the slightest doubt that they also nest within the structure of buildings. On several occasions, correspondents have reported them nesting in and damaging the woodwork of porches, roofs, kitchen sinks, and paneling. The ants feed on such household foods as molasses, honey, and liver. Workers are also known to disrupt colonies of bees by plundering their hives for food or living quarters. This ant undoubtedly ranks as one of the most important house-infesting ants in Florida.

References: Wheeler, 1932, p. 15; Schneirla, 1944, pp. 3–4; Creighton, 1950, pp. 395–396; Smith, 1950, pp. 299–300; Van Pelt, 1958, pp. 46–49.

***Camponotus caryae discolor* (Buckley)**

A native ant, *Camponotus caryae discolor* (Buckley) ranges from Kansas and Iowa to Ohio, south to Texas and Florida. The subspecies is probably most common in the lower Mississippi Valley region or the Central States, but appears to be much less generally common than *Camponotus rasilis* Wheeler and *C. nearcticus* Emery. *C. caryae* (Fitch) is a North American ant whose distribution appears to be largely eastern. It is thought to have produced at least one or more valid subspecies.