

had evidently not started her brood as none was found.

Dendromyrmex apicalis Mann, *ssp. filiae* Weber.—Four nests of this new subspecies were taken in virgin Greenheart forest (*Ocotea Rodioei* (Schomb.) about four miles from the Forest Settlement, Mazaruni River, British Guiana August 23, 1935. The ants of three nests, however, were nesting in another tree, *Guguetia neglecta* (Anonaceae), called by the Arawak Indians "yariyari." The tree was probably about 75 feet high and was dwarfed by the magnificent Greenheart. As this particular forest was that month being selectively cut by the Forestry Department, it will no longer be the virgin climax type it then was. It may then be that the *Dendromyrmex* will move out, like *Paraponera clavata* leaves disturbed rain forest here.

The nests occurred at a height of about 15 feet and were on the underside of the *Guguetia* leaves. The nests were uniform in structure and each had two entrances facing the leaf petiole. One nest was attached to the distal portion of a leaf 17 cm. long for a distance of 9 cm. although because of the narrowness of the leaf only the proximal 7 cm. was used. The nest was 4.5 cm. in maximum width and 3-5 cm. high. The carton was of even texture and consisted of vegetal debris and plant fibers mostly finer than cotton. The leaf surface forming the ceiling was covered with a thin film of carton. When the nest was cut down the ants stood rigidly erect on their legs, with the gaster (abdomen) erected perpendicularly at right angles to the remainder of the body like *Crematogaster*. Appearing jet-black, they contrasted sharply with the buff-gray carton. The ants of a second nest reacted somewhat differently. When I started to pick them up they beat their bodies rapidly against the leaf with legs outspread, producing exactly the sound of workers of the carton-making *Camponotus senex* as they similarly drum against their nest when disturbed. The sound reminds one of the pattering of raindrops. The latter nest, being larger and more complexly cellular,

produces more resonance. The *Dendromyrmex* of all nests bit freely when picked up but the bites were relatively ineffectual and the ants did not rush to attack. The brood of the nests consisted of elliptical white eggs 1.07×0.51 mm., larvae covered with dense, fine, multifid hairs and white cocoons containing mature larvae or unpigmented pupae.

The ants of the fourth nest nested on the underside of a small leaf of a vine attached to a sapling and at a height of six feet. The nest strongly resembled those above and similarly had two entrances.

The Nest of Another Arboreal Ant (Neoponera).—Ants of the subfamily Ponerinae are the most primitive of ants. They form the most simple nests, cavities in the ground or in rotted wood. This is the accepted habit for ants of the ponerine genus *Neoponera*, widespread from Texas to Argentina. On December 22, 1934, however, I found a *Neoponera* colony in Trinidad, B. W. I. (Guayaguayare Bay), which formed a nest remarkable for a ponerine and foreshadowing the carton nest of the higher ants. The nest was at a height of several feet on a small tree, locally called Balsa or Bois flot (*Ochroma pyramidale* (Cav.) Urb.) of the Bombacaceae. The trunk of this young tree was covered with long, multifid hairs. The ants had formed a crude, carton of agglutinated hairs to make a nest appressed to the trunk. Brood was kept in the several chambers so formed.

LITERATURE CITED

- Emery, C. 1925. Formicinae, in *Genera Insectorum*, Fasc. 183, p. 173.
 Weber, N. A. 1943. New ants from Venezuela and neighboring countries. *Bol. Ent. Venezolana* 2: 67-78, (Caracas, Venezuela).
 Wheeler, W. M. 1916. Ants from British Guiana collected by the American Museum of Natural History expedition of 1911. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 35: 13.

NEAL A. WEBER

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA