

LOWER ORINOCO RIVER FUNGUS-GROWING ANTS
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE, ATTINI)

BY

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Very little has appeared on the ants of the Orinoco River and still less on the fungus-growers. The author has previously published description of several new Attini from here. Biological observation made on these and others, however, remained largely unpublished and appear in this paper. They were made in January-February 1935 while on an expedition to this most interesting region and, because of lack of time for much collecting, represent only part of the fauna to be expected. Several observations on *Acromyrmex octospinosus* from elsewhere in Venezuela are included.

The genera of Attini are listed below beginning with the most primitive, *Cyphomyrmex*, and ending with the most advanced, *Atta*. Species which were not taken, but which will likely be discovered in the future are mentioned.

The area dealt with includes the river banks from Ciudad Bolivar down to, and through, the Delta. Because of the periodic flooding of much of the Delta from the tides, these predominantly terrestrial ants have had to make some adjustments. Doubtless some of the smaller species will be found nesting among epiphytic rootlets and in other places above ground in trees.

CYPHOMYRMEX

Only the species *rimosus* was taken along the river in the limited time available but there are likely other species. *C. bigibbosus* Emery or some form of it may be expected in the rain forest, nesting under or in rotted logs.