

along a small stream, a tributary of the Rio La Peña. Though on the llanos, the stream vegetation was declared by my ecologist companion to be more like that around the Mt. St. Benedict Monnastery in Trinidad, B. W. I. than typical xerophytic to mesophytic llanos vegetation. On the llanos proper, nearby, was a nest of *Atta laevigata*.

The ants had formed a turret nest entrance, beneath which a chamber containing large (9mm.) elliptical seeds was found at a depth of about 20 cm. from the top of the turret and below the first chamber was a second which contained the fungus garden. This chamber was elliptical, about 6 cm. high and 7 x 5 cm. in diameters. The substrate for the garden appeared to be partly the seeds of the kind in the first chamber, which seemed to have come from a climbing vine with moderate-sized entire leaves on a nearby tree. The rest of the substrate was a miscellany of vegetal material of small particles, partly wood. In the garden was brood, of which a few larvae were collected. These had a smooth integument with sparse hairs about the head, which contrasted markedly with the coarse, multifid hairs on a short, stout "trunk" of *Acromyrmex octospinosus* larvae, often to be found in nests near the *Trachymyrmex*.

Near Barrancas, at the head of the Delta, stray workers were found under a loose pile of moist twigs on damp soil where they may have been foraging for substrate.

ACROMYRMEX

The ants of the genus *Acromyrmex* resemble those of the genus *Atta*, commonly known as "bachacos" in Venezuela, and may locally be referred to as the small "bachacos". They lack the distinctive soldier caste, however, and are smaller in maxima worker size as well as in numbers of individuals in a nest or in total nest size.

Two subgenera of *Acromyrmex* occur in Venezuela, *Acromyrmex*, s. str., and *Moellerius*, taken near Ciudad Bolivar on the Orinoco, which is llanos-inhabiting and may be expected to be widespread in this habitat in the country. The two species of *Acromyrmex*, s. str. taken along the Lower