

found and was dissected without finding a queen. Pupae, both large and small, were covered with an open, irregular mesh of mycelium while the larvae lacked this. The larvae were covered with short, stout hairs which tapered to a fine point that was sometimes finely divided. Occasional hairs were bifid or trifid down to the base. The mandibles were stout, triangular with an acute apical tooth, and were finely spinulose. The fragments of the garden were placed on a large leaf on the ground. The ants immediately started to take them back to the nest site and kept at this activity until long after dark (after 7:30 p.m.). By 6 o'clock the next morning they had removed all of the garden fragments to a point above the former site between the palm trunks. They were active during a light rain at this hour. By the late afternoon a fine new fungus garden had been formed in back, of and slightly above, the cavity left by the former garden. Since the relative humidity during this 24-hour period must have always approximated 100% there was no danger of dessication of the delicate fungus. The experiment demonstrated also that the ants do not necessarily have to weed out alien fungi as has generally been assumed. This was manifestly impossible under the present conditions. My belief is that the chemical environment created by the malaxated substrate and the ant fecal droplets favors the particular fungus grown by the ants (see Weber, 1945, 1946).

*Acromyrmex* (s. str.) *octospinosus* (Reich)

This is the species of *Acromyrmex* found in Trinidad, B. W. I. and an account of its biology, including that of an unprecedented intersex colony, may be found in Wheeler, 1937 and Weber, 1945. It seems to be the commonest species of the genus along the Venezuelan littoral.

A colony near Barrancas at the head of the Delta nested close to a *Cyphomyrmex rimosus* colony, described above. The *Acromyrmex* nested in soil close to a rotted stump. The ants had been actively excavating in the soil as shown by a fresh ridge of soil particles about 250 mm. long. At a depth of about 60 mm. a fungus garden was exposed but time was lacking for further observations. The garden was normal in