

black color of the soil the craters themselves were distinctly paler and of an orange-brown color. Was this due to formic acid excreted by the ants or to an acid condition of the gradens and excrement excreted on the latter? Seemingly, the color difference was caused by the ants since their whole activities below ground were confined to the same gray to black soil.

The fungus gardens were gray in color and deteriorated rapidly when exposed to the hot, dry air of this day. They gave off a sweetish odor somewhat like sorghum and less like molasses. No bromatia or "kohlrabi" structures were seen in any part of the gradens. The fungus itself was in the form of strands of a white mycelium covering the moist and apparently partly fermented particles of triturated leaves. In an apparent indiscriminate manner eggs were mixed with other brood in the cells of the gardens. A centipede was taken from the corridor to a garden.

What impressed me at the time was the unusually high proportions of soldiers compared with those of a *cephalotes* colony. They seemed easily to outnumber the maxima and media workers. The soldiers were aggressive and not only ruined my new, heavy, all-wool socks by cutting many holes in them but draw blood easily.

#### *Atta cephalotes* L. (Fig. 2.)

This ant is doubtless one of the animals important to the human inhabitants of the Delta. Without modern insecticides the people find it exceedingly difficult to exterminate a large colony, a colony which might ruin a crop of cassava or other plants.

It is probably of general distribution throughout the Delta and adjacent rain forests as the following specific records indicate: below Barrancas along the Caño Piacoa; main channel of Rio Grande north of Isla Tortola; between Caños Araguaito and Araguas opposite Isla Sacoroco; Caño Orocaima, tributary to Caño Toro, the latter a branch of the Brazo Imataca.