

A young nest was dissected in the fringe forest of the Caño Orocaima along a path used by people living in several huts, (Fig. 2). Nearby was dense rain forest. Externally the nest appeared as a crater 125 mm. in diameter and 30 mm. high; a tunnel 115 mm. long and 23 mm. in diameter led to the nest chamber. This was elliptical, 73 mm. high x 102 mm. wide. Extending down from the first chamber as a continuation of the original tunnel was a cavity 64 mm. deep and 40 mm. wide which probably represented the beginning of a second chamber the original chamber was largely filled by a sessile fungus garden, 70 x 74 mm., which, however, was supported in part by several horizontal roots running through it. The garden was grayish externally, brownish internally. I tasted the inner part and found a suggestion of mushroom flavor; the outer part had a flavor less definable and more pasty.

The queen responsible for the colony was found at one side, supported partly by the roots but also clinging to the garden. She was sluggish and remained in the same place until I finished the excavation. When placed in 93% ethyl alcohol she floated, whereas worker ants sink, indicating that wing and other muscles had been replaced by air.

No maxima workers and no soldiers had yet been reared in this colony although soldier pupae of moderate size were present.

It is possible that the queen came from a mature colony farther along the path. This contained large, possibly sexual, larvae. The young colony queen may have left this colony at the onset of the last rainy season or an earlier one.

On a small island of the Caño Piacoa a mature colony was found by tracing its trails through dense jungle. The island was perhaps 800 meters long and hardly 100 meters in greatest width. At high water during the rainy season the island was clearly reduced to less than half the present size. From the west point of the island ant trails led about 200 meters above water during the rainy season to the nest on the south side, which was six or seven meters at the very most above low water level and probably not more than three meters above water during the rainy season. The trails led from bushes of the sandspit at the west end along the shore