

# W.L. Brown, Jr. COLLECTION

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## Note on the European Pavement Ant, *Tetramorium caespitum*, in the Philadelphia area (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

NEAL A. WEBER, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore,  
Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area may have been one of the original sites of introduction of the common European pavement ant, *Tetramorium caespitum* L., into the United States. Sailing ships from Europe, since the days of William Penn in the 17th Century, may have brought this species with cargo. The Swedes, Dutch, and British could have brought colonies repeatedly to the mild shores of the Delaware River at Marcus Hook, Upland (now Chester), and later to Philadelphia. This may be the species referred to by Kalm in 1748 in Philadelphia (Donisthorpe, 1927). A more specific and more recent manner of carrying the ants is suggested by the repeated introduction of English ivy (*Hedera helix*) to the campus of Swarthmore College in the southwestern suburban area of Philadelphia. An historical account of the acquisition of the ivy covering the walls of the principal college building, Parrish Hall, has been recently given by Isabelle Bronk (1964). This account, originally published in 1908, states that the custom of setting out class ivies was inaugurated in 1889. Members of the college were accustomed to bring living slips of ivy from Europe, before the days of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Service. It would have been a simple matter for a fecundated female of this ant to have survived the journey in soil about the ivy roots. For example, Dean Bond brought some in 1903 from the ruins of Ludlow Castle, England, others brought living ivy from a Quaker meeting house at Swarthmore, England, from Addison's Walk at Magdalen College, Oxford, from Christ's College, Cambridge, from a ruined church in Scotland, and from the Royal Gardens of the Luxembourg, Paris.