The area controlled by one colony could comprise several clumps of bamboo. Some of these were separated by low vegetation which was traversed by the workers. The areas of 3 isolated colonies were measured (distances refer to the maximum diameters of the crown regions) : A : 15 m × 4 m, (20 pavilions, two of them occupied by other ants, 5 of them empty) ; B : 18 m × 4 m, (23 pavilions, 3 nests) ; C : 1. clump : 3.50 m × 3.50 m, 2. clump : 5.00 m × 5.00 m, 3. clump : 6.00 m × 6.00 m (13 pavilions, one of them occupied by other ants, 2 nests). Colony C was censused completely. It contained 1 176 workers, 1 queen, and no alate sexuals. Compared with other-not fully censused-colonies, this seemed to be a relatively small one. *P. arachne* and *P. hodgsoni* are only active during daytime. To avoid underestimation of the number of workers by missing the foraging specimens, we collected nests and pavilions after dusk at which time most individuals could be expected inside the pavilions or nests.

Weaving behaviour

Weaving was carried out by a worker which held a last-instar larva by its neck constantly antennating the sides of the larva's head and waving the larva to-and-fro (see *fig. 2* : *P. hodgsoni* with the same behaviour). The larva supported this movement by stretching its head in the direction of the movement. By tipping the head of the larva to the leaf or the previously built part of the pavilion the silk thread was fixed in place. In this way

Fig. 2. — Weaving larva of *Polyrhachis hodgsoni.*

Abb. 2. — Webende Larve von *Polyrhachis hodgsoni.*