

Prey and other food sources

Foraging occurred mainly on bamboo, but some *P. arachne* workers were also found on ginger and banana leaves. In contrast, only few individuals were observed foraging on the ground layer of dead leaves, close to their nests.

In spite of many hours of field observations, no act of predation was observed. Dead insects (mosquitoes, grasshoppers, or parts of them) or honey—water—solution were accepted as food. Presentation of larger quantities of food induced recruitment behaviour. *Notobitus affinis* Dallas 1852 and *Cloresmus* species (Heteroptera, Coreidae), bamboo bugs which release honey dew and which are attractive to other ants (MASCHWITZ *et al.*, 1987), were ignored.

Colony foundation

Colony foundation by a single dealate queen took place in a little detritus nest beneath a leaf which resembled a small pavilion (fig. 3).

2.) *Polyrhachis hodgsoni* Forel 1902

Colonies of *P. hodgsoni* sometimes occurred in the same bamboo grove where *P. arachne* lived, but overlapping of the colonies was never observed. The biology of this species was in many aspects similar to that of *P. arachne*.

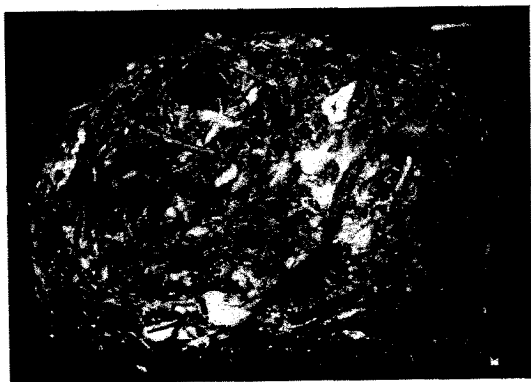


Fig. 3. — Nest of a colony-founding queen of *Polyrhachis arachne*.

Abb. 3. — Koloniegründungsnest von *Polyrhachis arachne*.