rhachis (*Myrmothrinax*) was tolerated by *P. hodgsoni* at its host plant. This is surprising, for many ants are known to kill systematically colony founding queens within their foraging area (HÖLLDOBLER and LUMSDEN, 1980). Further observations are needed to evaluate, which special adaptations make these unusual kinds of coexistance possible.

Possibly due to the relatively large colony size of the two *Polyrhachis* species their pavilions are only rarely taken over by other ants. Such takeovers happen only at the margins of the colonies' territories.

P. arachne and *P. hodgsoni* show a new kind of territorial strategy, combining aspects of the absolute-territory strategy of *Oecophylla longinoda* with the spatiotemporal strategy of other species (terminology of HÖLLDOBLER and LUMSDEN, 1980): Like *Oecophylla* the two *Polyrhachis* species effectively decentralize their home bases, which enables them to control a large area. But unlike *Oecophylla*, *P. arachne* and *P. hodgsoni* use a spatiotemporal-territory strategy, only defending the close vicinity of their pavilions and food sources.

The two ant species have very similar life habits, which should result in intense competition. Surprisingly, we found no evidence supporting this prediction. The reason, at the moment, remains open.

Predators

Calliphorid flies of the genus *Bengalia* were observed stealing larvae of *P. arachne* as well as those of *P. hodgsoni*. These flies are known to be cleptic at some ant species (MASCHWITZ and SCHÖNEGGE, 1980) but are here reported for the first time for *Polyrhachis*. Cleptic spiders stealing ant brood are mentioned in the literature only twice: An undetermined spider stole larvae of *Megaponera foetens* (Fabricius, 1793) in former Rhodesia (ARNOLD, 1914), and *Menemerus bivittatus* (Dufour, 1831) (*Marpissa melanognathus* auct.) (Salticidae) stole brood of *Solenopsis geminata* (Fabricius, 1804) in India (BHATTACHARYA, 1936). The specialization on stealing ant brood seems to be quite common in the tropics and was observed by the senior author with different species of Salticidae and Formicidae being involved. This seems to be due to the fact that in the tropics weaver ants frequently have to carry their larvae to different nests or pavilions. In addition, the nest sites of many ant species are changed very often due to a bivouacing mode of life or strong competition, all resulting in a frequent transport of brood.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. — We thank Prof. YONG HOI SEN and Prof. KIEW BONG HEANG (University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur), Dr. THO YOW PONG, WULF KILLMANN and his gtz-research team (Forest Research Institute, Kepong, Malaysia) for their kind help during all our studies in Malaysia, including the providing of laboratory and field station facilities. Dr. Claude BESUCHET (Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneve), B. BOLTON (British Museum (Natural History, London), Dr. Michael BRANCUCCI (Natural History Museum, Basel), Dr. Janine CASEVITZ-WEULLERSSE (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris), Dr. Rudolf KOHOUT (Queensland Museum, Brisbane), Dr. Valter RAINERI (Museo Civico Di Storia Naturale,