

5. *Polyergus rufescens* (Latreille 1798) (Formicinae)

On 27 July 1986 I observed a raiding party of the amazone ant at the Col d'Arras, 1300 m (between Etsaut and Urdos), Vallée d'Aspe, Pyrénées-Atlantiques. The nest and also the target colony of the slave raid could not be found. *P. rufescens* usually has slaves belonging to the subgenus *Serviformica*. The species has a wide distribution in central and southern Europe. It is said to be rare in the Pyrenees, and BERNARD (1968) mentions but one locality there, near Banyuls (Pyrénées-Orientales).

Conclusion

The most remarkable record for the Pyrenees is *Teleutomyrmex schneideri*. However, since I found several other rare and interesting parasitic ant species not far from that site, without much collection efforts, we may suppose that the western Pyrenees perhaps are similarly rich in such species as the Swiss and French Alps (BUSCHINGER 1985). With respect to the intended protection of endangered ant species mentioned in the introduction, the area of the Vallées d'Ossau and Aspe could be of some importance. All the localities mentioned above are situated outside the borders of the Parc National des Pyrénées, however, we may assume that the same species do occur also within the Park. Thus, the prospects for the survival of this rich ant fauna are not bad, particularly when major changements in the utilization of the surrounding areas can be prevented.

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