

Myrmecina graminicola (LATR., 1802) and *M. sicula* (ANDRÉ, 1882) are the two single european species but this last taxon, a sicilian endemism, is probably a synonym (MENOZZI, 1936; BARONI URBANI, 1964). Typical biotopes for *M. graminicola* are humid places with a developed layer of humus. The nest is hypogaeous but occasionally workers can be seen foraging among dead leaves (pers. obs.). Feeding habits seem to be variable: in northern Europe it is a scavenging ant (COLLINGWOOD, 1979) and does not maintain nest aphids; according to BERNARD (1968) it is nectarivorous and can have nest aphids; dead or live animal food, specially insects, is the preferred regime as stated by DONISTHORPE (1927) but accepts also honey. FOREL (1920) also observed some workers taking honey in a lab nest and mentions a single worker licking a decaying cat carcass. Swarming takes place from August to October in North Europe (COLLINGWOOD, 1979), from August to September in Switzerland (KUTTER, 1977) and Spain (pers. obs., X.E.). No data are known for North Africa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by a grant ("Estudios sobre invertebrados terrestres de Madeira e Canárias") from the University of La Laguna, Tenerife to M. Báez.

REFERENCES

BARONI URBANI, C. :

1964. Studi sulla mirmecofauna d'Italia. II. Formiche di Sicilia. *Atti Academia Gioenia Scienze Naturali di Catania*, Ser. 6 (16):25-66.

BERNARD, F. :

1968. *Les fourmis (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) d'Europe occidentale et septentrionale*. Masson. Paris. pp. 411.

BOLTON, B. :

1973. The ant genera of West Africa: a synonymic synopsis with keys (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Bulletin of the British Museum of natural History (Entomology)*, 27: 319-368.

BROWN, W.L. :

1973. Studies on North American ants. II. *Myrmecina*. *Entomological News*, 78: 233-240.

BROWN, W.L. :

1973. A comparison of the Hylean and Congo-West African rain forest ant faunas. In: *Tropical forest ecosystems in Africa and South America: A comparative review*: 161-185. (Meggers, B.J., Ayensu, E.S. & Duckworth, W.D. eds.). Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington.

CAGNIANT, H. :

1973. Les peuplements de fourmis des forêts algeriennes. *Ecologie. Biocénétique*, essai biologique. Ph. D. Thesis. Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse. pp.464.

COLLINGWOOD, C.A. :

1979. The Formicidae (Hymenoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna Ent. Scandinavica*, Vol. 6. pp. 174.