

- homoplasy** The apparent independent evolution (by parallelism or convergence) of characteristics that are indistinguishable.
- humisol** A type of soil that is rich in organic material.
- hypogaecic** Living primarily below the surface of the ground, or at least beneath cover such as leaf litter, stones, and dead bark (opposite of epigaecic).
- hypostoma** The anteroventral region of the head; the area of cuticle immediately behind the buccal cavity and forming its posterior margin.
- hypostomal teeth (gular teeth)** In ants, one or more pairs of triangular or rounded teeth that project forward from the anterior margin of the hypostoma.
- inflorescence** The arrangement and sequence of development of flowers on a flowering shoot.
- infrabuccal pocket** In ants, a cavity on the floor of the buccal chamber in which, in most species, indigestible material accumulates and is compacted for later disposal; in ants of the subfamily Pseudomyrmecinae infrabuccal pocket contents are fed to larvae, and in fungus-growers the infrabuccal pocket is used by gynes to transport fungus-garden mycelium.
- insolation** Exposure to solar radiation
- instar** In insects, the stage between moults in a nymph or larva.
- integument** The outer layer of an arthropod, including the basement membrane, epidermis, and cuticle.
- interspecific competition** Simultaneous demand for limited resources between members of different species.
- intraspecific competition** Simultaneous demand for limited resources between members of the same species.
- karyology** The branch of cytology dealing with the study of nuclei, especially the structure of chromosomes.
- labrum** The "upper lip" of the insect mouth, arising anterior to the clypeus.
- latosol** A type of soil, occurring primarily in tropical regions, in which plant detritus decays rapidly, leaching silica from the soil in the process known as laterization.
- lectotype** In taxonomy, one of a series of syntypes that, subsequent to the publication of the original description, is selected and designated through publication to serve the same function as the holotype specimen for the species.
- lineage** A group of organisms descended from a common ancestor. *See* **clade**.
- mandibles** The first pair of jaws in insects. In ants, the organs for cutting and otherwise processing food, for biting enemies, for carrying brood, for nest construction, and for generally manipulating the environment, usually stout and jawlike, but variously modified and elongate in some species.
- mesocoxa** The coxa of the middle leg (i.e., the leg arising from the mesothorax).
- mesonotum** The dorsal part of the mesothorax (thorax segment 2).
- mesosoma** *See* **alitrunk**.
- mesothorax** The middle member of the three main subdivisions of the insect thorax, from which the anterior pair of wings and the middle legs arise.
- metacoxa** The coxa of the hind leg (i.e., the leg arising from the metathorax).
- metanotum** The dorsal part of the metathorax (thorax segment 3).
- metapleural gland** An antibiotic-producing exocrine gland peculiar to ants located at the posteroventral corner of the metapleuron.
- metapleuron** The lateral region of the metathorax.
- metasoma** *See* **gaster**.
- metathorax** The posterior member of the three main subdivisions of the insect thorax, from which the posterior pair of wings and the rear legs arise.
- midden** A refuse heap.
- monophyletic** Describing a group consisting of an ancestral species and all of its descendants.
- morphocline** One of a graded series of states within a morphological character.
- morphospecies** A temporary grouping created to distinguish morphologically distinct clusters of specimens from one another prior to rigorous identification (where possible) with nominal species.
- mutualism** A symbiosis in which both parties benefit.
- mycorrhizal fungi** Fungi that grow in obligate association with the roots of plants.
- myrmecodomatia** *See* **domatia**.
- myrmecologist** A student of myrmecology.
- myrmecology** The study of ants (family Formicidae).
- myrmecophyte** A higher plant that lives in obligatory, mutualistic association with ants.
- Nearctic Region** The northern regions of the New World, including North America and the Central Mexican Plateau.
- Neotropical Region** The tropical region of the New World (i.e., of Central and South America).
- ocellus** In insects, a simple eye distinct from the paired compound eyes; in ants, an eye occurring in