

in one colony was ranged to 850 workers. We didn't see any casting system in the populations of any surveyed colonies. It is revealed that humidity of soil is the most important factor to their survival. They are established their colonies in humid microclimates at the parks and loans, near irrigation channels, below man-made concrete surfaces at shadow of trees and so on. They also make their colony in human and animal premises. The openings of colony are easily visible at the corners of walls. We found a few of colonies in middle of alfalfa farm where irrigated using flooding method at 2-3 days interval. Their colonies were not found in dry and sandy soils. The estimation of vital temperature threshold is ranged between 0 to 55°C. This condition may be provided at other parts of Iran especially North Coasts of Oman Sea and Persian Gulf. Foraging is carried out by workers in random manner that have not any visible tracing model to the food resources. The laboratory and field observations showed that *P. sennaarensis* is omnivorous, feed from seeds of various plants, bodies of dead individuals of other ant colonies, larvae of a few dipteran flies, a few species of Isoptera and a few members of Isopoda such as *Porcellio* spp. They use their sting for anesthetizing their preys. Present surveys also revealed that any of the newly mated workers of *P. sennaarensis* (placed in jars) couldn't establish a new colony.

### DISCUSSION

Invasive social insects are particularly harmful (Mediabadi and Lawrence 2002). It is experimentally revealed that fire ant *P. sennaarensis* detrimentally impact human health in Sistan and Baluchistan province. It is very obvious in meaning of its local name, Sochok. It means that it can induce inflammation. Its agricultural and ecological hazards are not clear.

Many ant species, particularly those of tropical and subtropical origins, are easily transported around the globe by human commerce (Morrison *et al.*, 2004). Despite of eight years drought in Sistan and Baluchistan province, the Iranshahr district has been remained as an important agricultural area in this province, benefiting underground water. Some foraging plants e.g., alfalfa, seasonal vegetables e.g., cucumber, tomato, green pepper, tobacco and fruits e.g., as date, orange, lemon, papaya, mango and so on have exported to other provinces of Iran. Developing of roads and other transportation nets to Sistan and Baluchistan province as well as increase in rainfall may boost their domestic and global expansion (through Chabahar port).

Exotic ants are among the most problematic invaders.

Some of these species are known to have wide ranging deleterious impacts on the native fauna of invaded region (Morrison *et al.*, 2004).

Control of fire ants is very difficult. Pesticides, which cost the United State millions of dollars annually, have failed to control fire ants effectively in US (Mediabadi and Lawrence, 2002). Therefore it seems that preventing from expansion of fire ants is recommendable.

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