within this group allowed omnivorous taxa to better disperse across the native African boundaries with abundant prey (25). Winged dispersal of female reproductive forms does not seem to play an important role in the spread of *P. sennaarensis* to non-native regions, such as the Arabian Peninsula and Iran (25, 26). It is thus assumed that human activities such as overseas trade, construction and irrigation of planted vegetation are the major means of introduction.

The ecology and the distribution of this species in Iran are not well established. Globally, there are also some variations in the clinical features of these medically important ants. Although abdominal gland secretions have been studied in several species of the genus *Pachycondyla*, no comprehensive study has been yet carried out on *P. sennaarensis* (4, 27). In addition to ecological studies, we have therefore studied abdominal glands of *P. sennaarensis* and herein present these findings in a medical context.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field Collection

Foraging workers of four colonies of *P. sennaarensis* were collected in Fajr Park (27.12N, 60.41E) and around Abshekan village (27.19N, 60.46E) from February to May 2007, while the field observations of the marked colonies which were located in Abshekan village (Figure 1) continued until October. Collected specimens were killed by freezing and carried in cold boxes to the laboratory where they were stored at –30°C until 2008, when the workers were dissected for sample preparation. A sample of individuals was retained intact for morphological identification.