

synthesized compound. Authentic trimethyl pyrazine, 2,5-piperazinedione, phenol-2,4-bis (1,1 dimethylethyl), alkenes and methylated hydrocarbons were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH (Germany). Acetonitrile and trifluoroacetic acid were purchased from Merck (Germany). A commercial product consisting of pentadecan-2-one (Lancaster Synthesis Ltd., UK) was used as standard. A sample of 2,6,10-trimethylundecan-2,9-dien-4-one was synthesized through the Grignard reaction (29). Authentic samples of aliphatic alkanes were obtained from Accu Standard (USA).

RESULTS

Bioecology of *P. sennaarensis*

Pachycondyla sennaarensis build complicated underground galleries of about 1 m depth with small openings (0.5 cm diameter) which include little circumferential compact soil. They establish their colony in humid microclimates, e.g. parks and greens, near irrigation channels, below concrete surfaces and in human and animal premises. Openings of a colony are circular (3-5 mm in diameter) and visible at the infested room corners. No colony was detected in dry sandy soils. None of the newly mated workers, which were placed in a Plexiglas cylinder, could establish a new colony. Fertilized wingless workers were observed on the periphery of colonies. These workers are 1 mm longer than the others and can be easily identified by observing the base of the loose wings on their thorax. The number of workers in a colony never exceeded 850. Our surveillance indicated that winged ants appear in early spring and autumn. Foraging is randomly carried out by workers with no tracing model to the food resource. Field observations showed that *P. sennaarensis* were omnivorous, feed on seeds of various plants, corpses of other ants, larvae of dipterans, a few species of Isoptera and some isopods such as *Porcellio* spp.

Ant Sting and Clinical Manifestations

A short while after being stung by a Samsum ant, small papules appeared (Figure 3A) whose diameters grew to about 0.5 cm in 3 to 5 minutes. In cases of multiple-stings, papules became conjoined to form a nodule. Fine nodules were usually replaced by erythema (Figure 3B) and distinct inflammation in less than 15 minutes, but no pustule was observed. No visible symptom remained after 5 hours; however local itching that had commenced in the first minutes lasted for 24 hours.