

PARATYPES: Five workers taken with the soldier.

The ants were taken among leaf mold and humus on top of the fallen log which contained the type colony of *Parasyscia nitida* Weber. The habitat was heavy rain forest and, while termites were also here, there was no apparent relationship between the two.

The distinctive feature of the soldier is the acute occipital angles which in other species are rounded or more right-angled. The worker has a marked meso-epinotal impression and unusually long epinotal teeth.

BIOLOGY OF *Oligomyrmex* AND *Aeromyrma*

While these ants rank as among the very smallest of the ants of the world, they are by no means unimportant. Their size may be an asset in enabling them to penetrate small orifices or to attack small animals. Silvestri (1914, p. 128) records the workers of *A. vorax* as destroying pupae of *Ceratitis colae*, a fruit fly, at Aburi, West Africa. "It makes a small opening in the puparium, then penetrates within and little by little destroys the whole pupae."

They appear to be primarily terrestrial or hypogeic, and I found them regularly in Kenya termitaria. Their small size enables them to use the smallest entrances to a termite cell, and quite possibly the brood of termites constitute an important and regular source of food. They could always be found in the peripheral soil and humus cover of a large *Macrotermes natalensis* termitarium over a period of several weeks in January and February. Termites, however, would not necessarily constitute their only food since snails (*Opeas*) and many other invertebrates including other species of ants lived here. A similar situation occurred in a *natalensis* mound at Zemio, French Equatorial Africa.

The Uganda type colony of *O. thoracicus* was a few meters distant from a large termitarium of *Macrotermes natalensis* containing six large queens, and it is quite possible that there may have been some relationship here which could not be determined in the limited time available. In a Belgian Congo termitarium of another genus, however, *Crematogaster*, *Pheidole*, and *Aeromyrma* all nested in peripheral termite chambers and probably all were predatory on their host. The type soldier of *A. petulca* was taken from a termitarium.