

has been recorded hitherto on *Ercbomyrma*, and, in fact, very little information is available on the entire tribe Pheidologetonini.

The self-grooming movements of the minor worker are given as follows, according to the classification proposed recently for ants as a whole (Wilson, 1962): (1) oral leg cleaning, (2) antenna wiping, (3) four-leg wiping, (4) three-leg wiping, (5) two-front-leg wiping, (7) head wiping (8) abdomen wiping (front legs). The queen repeated all of these movements and in addition (10) metapleuron wiping, conspicuously missing in the worker. Other-grooming was as frequent as in most other myrmicines. The workers were especially attentive to the large queens, and a populous retinue followed each as it moved about. As many as six were seen riding on one queen's body at the same time.

Worker-to-worker regurgitation was frequent. The queens apparently were fed exclusively by worker regurgitation, and they never approached the prey. In several emigrations studied, adult transport was never observed. In one exceptional instance a worker carried a newly eclosed worker by its left middle and fore legs clumsily and a short distance over the brood pile, as though it were a piece of brood.

#### DISCUSSION: THE ECOLOGY OF CAVERNICOLOUS ANT SPECIES

Penetration of caves by ants occurs chiefly in the tropics and is limited mostly to the dimly lighted (twilight) zone near entrances. The great majority of records belong to species that are obviously either troglloxenic (penetrating as foragers from nests outside) or troglphilic (facultatively cave-nesting). Further, these species are typically those that are among the most abundant, widespread, and adaptable members of the ant fauna in habitats outside the caves. For instance, a collection of ants made in 1959 in the Batu Caves, Malaya, by Mr. H. E. McClure and studied by the author, consisted primarily of three identifiable species [*Bothroponera tridentata* (Fr. Smith), *Leptogenys diminuta* (Fr. Smith), *Pheidole javana* Mayr] that are among the most widespread and common members of their genera in the Oriental Region. Wheeler (1924) records *Triglyphothrix striatidens* Emery from 400 feet inside the entrance of Siju Cave, Garo Hills, Assam; this ant is a notably adaptable pantropical "tramp" and by far the most widely distributed *Triglyphothrix*. Of 16 species recorded from Yucatan caves by Wheeler (1938), 15 are identifiable, and of these 13 have very extensive ranges in the New World tropics; most are known further to be abundant in various habitats. The remaining two species [*Brachymyrmex cavernicolus* Wheeler, *Paratrechina* (*Nylanderia*) *pearsei* Wheeler] belong to genera whose