

transport (although adult transport of minor workers was observed at other times; see Table 1). Eggs were completely transferred early in both emigrations. The last immatures to be transferred were larvae, not because workers selected pupae over larvae, but because the clumped larvae were difficult to pull apart for transport.

Only minor workers carried brood. Callow minors aided in pulling larvae and pupae free of piles of brood, but were clumsy at carrying larger immatures, which were quickly turned over to darker workers. Callows did, however, occasionally carry small larvae and eggs, taking egg clusters at a higher frequency than did other minors ($p < 0.01$, Fisher's exact probability test). Both replete and non-replete darkly pigmented minors transferred brood, and there were no significant differences between the frequency with which these subcastes carried different brood stages (for each brood stage $p > 0.05$).

The queen emigrated soon after brood transfer began in the first emigration, and ten minutes before the start of brood transfer during the second emigration. She moved rapidly within a small entourage of minors, but no workers rode on her during her journey.

Alarm and Defense: In three trials in which a small *Solenopsis geminata* worker with excised gaster was dropped into the brood area, most workers and the queen fled to adjacent nest chambers, with some minor workers carrying brood. Usually several major workers and a few minors stayed close to the intruder, mandibles open and facing the *Solenopsis*. Sometimes the ants attempted to bite the intruder. As described for *Erebomyrma nevermanni* (Wilson, 1986), the proportion of major workers near the intruder was clearly higher than in the colony as a whole. The ants responded similarly to freshly crushed minor heads presented on applicator sticks, suggesting the head as a source of alarm pheromones. Majors were particularly attracted to crushed minor heads, approaching them with their antennae directed ahead and mandibles open. There was virtually no response to crushed thoraxes and gasters.

DISCUSSION

The major workers of *Oligomyrma overbecki* apparently function primarily in colony defense and as repletes. The replete condition is very poorly developed (the ants are "semi-replete" in the sense of Wilson, 1986). Major workers also participated to a limited