

PSYCHE

Vol. 92

1985

No. 2-3

BEHAVIORAL NOTES ON THE ASIATIC HARVESTING ANTS *ACANTHOMYRMEX NOTABILIS* AND *A. FEROX**

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The workers of some ants fall into two size classes, each with a distinctive morphology and without intermediates. This condition, known as complete dimorphism, has arisen independently at least seven times among ants (Wilson, 1971). Perhaps the most dramatic examples of the dimorphic worker condition are found in the myrmicine genus *Acanthomyrmex*. One of the most startling species is *A. notabilis* (fig. 1), in which the trunk and gaster of the major are only fractionally larger than those of the minor caste, while the head is relatively enormous. In life, the head is thrown back over the trunk, and in fact much of the trunk fits conveniently into a cavity in the underside of the head capsule. The trunk is therefore virtually concealed even when the animal is viewed from the side. Moreover the waist and gaster are typically drawn up close to the body and are thus inconspicuous. Indeed, an observer's initial impression of a live *A. notabilis* major will likely be one of a "walking head."

Eleven species of *Acanthomyrmex* ants have been collected (Moffett, in prep.), all endemic to the Oriental region. To date no information pertinent to the behavior and ecology of these rarely collected ants has been reported. I present preliminary findings concerning two species here.

*Manuscript received by the editor May 10, 1985