

side; one minor held a larva in its mandibles. Except for the queen, which quickly rushed off into the surrounding litter, none of the ants made any move during my disturbances, even when I carefully picked up one of the fragments in forceps for close examination.

Additional workers (including a major, a minor carrying a larva, and three instances of adult transport of minors) were taken from a 2.5 m route extending along the ground and over leaf litter to the nest site. The ants had apparently been in the process of emigrating to the site of the leaf fragments. Unfortunately I was unable to trace the emigration route back to its origin because of the scarcity of ants along it. Indeed, during over an hour of observations on this route, the frequency of ants declined until none were seen during the last thirty minutes. Altogether I took 47 minors, two majors, seven males, one dealate queen and a small number of brood. Presuming the emigration had been at or very near completion, this would represent nearly the complete colony.

The captive ants were maintained as described for the *A. notabilis* colony. As in *A. notabilis*, the workers congregated together on the exposed surface with the brood massed together among them and with the majors usually at the periphery of the brood area. The location of the cluster often shifted.

#### DIET

*Acanthomyrmex notabilis*. *A. notabilis* apparently has a broad diet, collecting fruits and seeds, capturing tiny invertebrate prey, scavenging for dead invertebrates and probably accepting a variety of sugary materials as well.

Only one returning *A. notabilis* forager carried food, this a tiny (0.5 mm) fragment of a small isopod. In captivity minors promptly carried small arthropod corpses to the nest. There the corpses were surrounded by minors, which licked them and gradually tore them into pieces. Majors were never observed to feed on animal material (or any other food except by regurgitation).

There is some evidence for predation in this species. In the field four live 2–3 mm immature centipedes were placed before foraging ants; these were picked up and carried directly to the nest. A small entomobryid colleman, which I held before a forager with fine forceps, was also seized and carried off. In the captive colony a tiny