



Fig 1. — *Myrmoteras toro* worker holding an egg.

Abb. 1. — Eine *Myrmoteras toro* Arbeiterin hält ein Ei.

queen. However, all of the ants dispersed following a severe disturbance. The ants gradually reclustered without apparent recruitment.

No adult transport was recorded for either species.

Prey capture and diet

Mandible mechanics

The mandibles of *Myrmoteras* workers serve as a trap to capture prey, and thus are highly mobile. At one extreme, they can be directed forward so that the mandibular shafts are approximately parallel and the apical tooth on one slightly overlaps that of the other. However, when fully opened, a portion of the mandibular shafts disappears from view beneath the eyes, so that the angle between the mandibles is an incredible 280° (*fig. 2*). In this position the mandibles are immobile and appear to be locked in place.

Tallies of the *M. barbouri* ants taken at hour intervals indicate over 80% (100 in 119 observations) of the workers in an undisturbed colony held both mandibles ahead; the proportion of gynes was similar. In contrast, foraging workers kept their mandibles fully opened most of the time (37 of 42 observations). My observations were similar for *M. toro*.

After the mandibles have been opened, the ant can release one or both from the 'locked' position and swing them forward again. However, the