

have little success capturing Collembola. Several times I observed springtails escape during the brief pause in which the *M. toro* ants palpated them, seemingly to judge the distance to the prey before striking. Workers of *M. barbouri* (in the subgenus *Myrmoteras*) were quicker at striking springtails, and such strikes were often successful. Moreover, *M. barbouri* workers largely ignored other potential prey. If the diets of these species are typical of ants in their respective subgenera, the evolution of trigger hairs in subgenus *Myrmoteras* could be related to a specialization on springtails. The trigger hairs may allow for a more rapid response, reducing the possibility that easily startled collembolans will escape.

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