

3. *M. ogloblini* Santschi, 1933, worker and female. — The worker is characterized by a less rugose head, with frontal carinae rather obsolescent posteriorly, by the mesonotal spines which exceed in length the median pronotal spines, by more depressed postpetiole (Santschi says: petiole!) having the longitudinal carinae better developed than in the typical *goeldii*. No differential diagnosis is given for the female. Examination of three topotype workers and one female prove at once that this is a straight synonym of *goeldii*. The preceding characters do not exceed the variation found often in single nest series.

4. *Descolemyrma ogloblini* Kusnezov, 1951, male. — The types originate from the same locality as *M. ogloblini* Santschi and doubtless represent the male sex of the latter. Kusnezov (1956) tacitly recognized his mistake by dropping altogether *Descolemyrma* in his key to the Argentine ant genera and reproducing the figures of *Descolemyrma* under the heading of *Mycocepurus ogloblini* Santschi. Although I was unable to see the types, the description seems to me sufficiently detailed to show that this is the male of *M. goeldii*. As regards the special emphasis given by Kusnezov to small deviations in the wing venation, it is well to remember that Emery in 1922 already pointed out that the venation in this genus is quite inconstant. Since to my knowledge no formal synonymy has as yet been published for the present form, it is done so at this place.

Bio n o m i c s. — Luederwaldt (1918, 1926) is the only student who observed more closely the habits of the present species. Following is a summary of his findings:

M. goeldii is quite common in the fields in the São Paulo City area. The workers forage on the ground — they never climb up on plants — and have been seen collecting flowers of *Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Bacharis dracunculifolia*, seeds of *Bidens pilosus*, and caterpillar droppings. The booty is taken back to the nest or deposited on the outside round the entrance. The tiny ants are very timid, feigning dead when disturbed. While foraging, they are often attacked by other ants, especially by *Pheidole* spp.

The nest chambers are found in the soil at depths varying between 30 and 120 cm, and consist in round cavities of approximately 10 cm in diameter. The walls look polished and sometimes are lined with the dark feces of the ants.

The fungus-garden bears a peculiar aspect, consisting of narrow and elongate strips, 1.5-4.5 cm in length and 1.5 cm in width, suspended from the ceiling of the cavity like clothes hung up in a closet. The strips are yellowish-brown in color and are made up of tiny bits of plant material woven together by the mycelium of the fungus. Often, in nearby holes, stores of larger pieces of plant material are found piled up in heaps, perhaps to allow for fermentation before being used as substratum for the fungus-culture. Refuse is constantly being removed from the nest and deposited near the entrance.

Generally, there is only a single entrance to each nest, but this number may be increased considerably during the mating season. Luederwaldt counted once a maximum of 21 openings to a single nest. In the dry season, the workers build around the orifice of the entrance mounds of loosely piled up earth crumbs, which are either washed away by the first rain, or cemented together as craters.

The colonies are relatively small and the maximum number of workers to a nest probably does not exceed several hundreds. Nuptial flight takes place at day-time from October to February, the actual mating of both sexes is accomplished sitting on leaves. Occasionally only