being carried upslope in a nuptial flight. The actual location of the mother colony was probably some tens of kilometers downslope, in the grassland-lower montane transition zone (*sensu* Marr, 1967), where deciduous trees are mixed with pines. The altitude of this zone ranges from 1700 to 1825 m as in the Front Range.

Colonies of *D. taschenbergi*, consisting of thousands of individuals, prefer to build their nests in sandy soil of partly open wooded areas or at the edge of woods. The entrance is usually covered with a low mound of thatch composed of either grass, twigs or needles (Creighton 1950, Smith 1979, Wheeler and Wheeler 1963). Such nests were observed in Quebec in mixed hardwoods with pines either on rocky grounds or on morainic and fluviatile sand deposits (Francoeur, unpublished data). Workers forage in typical files and actively collect sugary secretions of coccids and aphids on trees and bushes, or scavenge dead arthropods. Bradley and Hinks (1968) reported this ant attending aphids on jack pine in Manitoba.

These ecological and ethological traits were likely the same at the time when the reported fossil was living. At about 8000 yr. BP, altitudinal tree limit has apparently already reached the Lake Isabelle cirque basin, subsequent to deglaciation. The faunal evidence from insect fossil assemblages of this age from the Colorado Front Range suggests that climatic amelioration was well underway by this time, with mean July temperatures (an estimate of summer warmth) as warm or warmer than modern values (Elias, 1983, 1985).

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