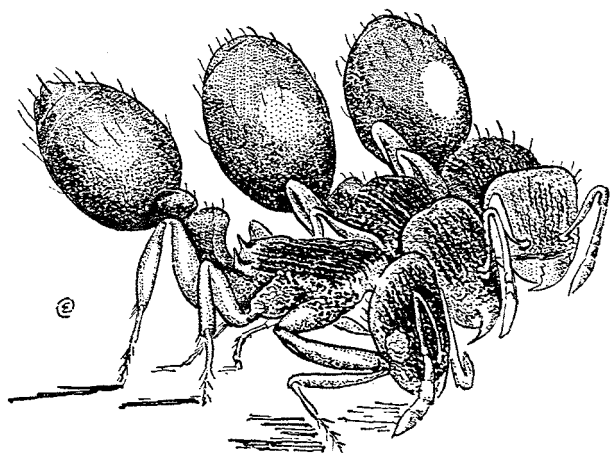


found a ring of workers of *Tetramorium simillimum* completely encircling it, and protecting it by discharging fluid at ants of other species, while workers of their own species were passing between them and fetching the food. *Pheidole* workers and *Paratrechina fijiensis* on their approach would receive a volley, and at once turn and make off at full speed, stopping to cleanse their antennæ, legs, and face of the obnoxious fluid, which was presumably formic acid, although I could not detect any odour. Upon one occasion, in the Fautaua Valley, this circle formed by the same species was broken by the workers of *Anoplolepis longipes*. The *Tetramorium* workers had not completed the ring, other members



Workers of *Tetramorium simillimum* defending food.

were hurrying up to take their places, when a determined attack was made upon them by the larger species. One of the attackers hesitated and then turned back from the firing-line, going through rapid motions of cleaning the antennæ. Others, however, successfully avoided the fusillage and reached the gaps in the half-formed circle, whence they strode over the small ants, seized them from above in their strong mandibles, shook them as a terrier does a rat, and tossed the limp bodies aside. Four or five of the *Anoplolepis* workers fell upon the unfortunate defenders in this fashion, the remainder of the latter escaped by running away, apparently realizing that they had failed to bring off their usual