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NEW DATA ON THE HABITS OF  
*CAMPONOTUS (MYRMAPHAENUS) ULCEROSUS*  
WHEELER

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In June 1951 the writer published, in this Journal, an account of the habits of *C. (M.) ulcerosus*. Since that time eight more colonies have been observed and additional data have been secured on the habits of this remarkable ant<sup>1</sup>.

The truncated head of the major worker of *ulcerosus* has suggested to some myrmecologists a relationship with the subgenus *Colobopsis*. This view is unsatisfactory from a structural standpoint, for the two subgenera actually have little in common. Nor did it seem likely, since *ulcerosus* is a ground-dweller, that the head of the major could be used in phragmosis. It is now certain, however, that the major worker of *ulcerosus* does function as a door and does close the nest entrance with the front of the head in a fashion essentially similar to the phragmotic major of *Colobopsis*.

This is possible because *ulcerosus* constructs a carton shield at the nest entrance. In this shield is a single aperture which closely approximates, in size and shape, the truncated portion of the head of the major. The shield is made of a mixture of earth and bits of vegetable detritus. The shield is so fragile that it usually cannot be lifted away from the nest entrance intact and it is sometimes destroyed by a heavy rainstorm. The shield may be flat, dome-shaped or tubular. In the dome-shaped and tubular shields the length is from ten to fifteen millimeters and the diameter from seven to ten millimeters. Since the aperture is notably smaller, it forms a bottle-neck which the head of the major can close.

The major of *ulcerosus*, when acting as a door, lets the other members of the colony in and out by backing away

<sup>1</sup> This work was done on a Guggenheim Fellowship for 1951-52.