

few centimeters high. The workers make no attempt to cut down the surrounding vegetation which often grows on the crater immediately around the entrance.”

It is hard to see what Wheeler had in mind here. Neither *subdentatus* nor *apache* (or its synonym *sancti-hyacinthi*) are small species. Indeed the major worker of *apache* is one of our largest species, being surpassed in this respect only by the major of *badius*. While the number of individuals in a nest of *apache* is small, there is ordinarily no crater nor disc around the nest entrance and this paucity of excavated material is, as Cole has recently shown (10), one of the characteristics of this species. The colonies of *subdentatus* ordinarily contain at least 500 individuals and this species usually constructs a ragged disc of gravel, not a crater, around the nest entrance. The nests of *desertorum*, while less populous than those of *subdentatus*, are far larger than those of *imberbiculus* and *pima*, and the coarse, flattened gravel mounds which *desertorum* customarily makes are wholly unlike the delicate craters constructed by our representatives of *Ephebomyrmex*. I mention these inconsistencies because it is certain that they have obscured Wheeler's original clear-cut presentation of the habits of *imberbiculus*.

As far as the writer has been able to determine the habits of *imberbiculus* and *pima* are so similar that a single account will cover both species. On rare occasions these ants will nest beneath stones but in most cases they build their nests without any covering object. The soil selected is always hard-packed and usually of a rather fine, sandy texture. There is a single, small nest entrance not more than 3 or 4 mm. in diameter, and the passages which lead from it are equally delicate. The storage chambers are small. Both the storage chambers and the passages collapse very easily if the nest is excavated and this makes it unusually difficult to trace them. The only practical method for doing so that the writer has found is to excavate the nest very gradually and allow time between excavations for the workers to reopen the caved-in passages. If three or four days can be devoted