

are maintained with high constancy throughout the entire range of each population. Moreover, these ranges appear to be entirely separate. The eastern population which, for reasons to be explained later, will have to be called *hirtula*, is primarily a Plateau species. Its range begins in northern Chihuahua and runs southwards through Coahuila, Durango, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi and Zacatecas to Hidalgo, Queretaro and Jalisco. The vertical range of this species extends from 3500 to 7600 feet but the majority of the records occur between the 5000 foot and 7000 foot levels. Along the Sierra Madre Oriental, *hirtula* occasionally occurs east of the crest of the mountains, but always at considerable elevations. On the western side of the Plateau it never gets near the crest of the Sierra Madre Occidental, apparently because its inability to tolerate elevations in excess of 7600 feet restricts it to lower levels on the eastern slopes of the Sierra. The fully developed nests of *hirtula* are very populous with many majors present, and it occasionally dominates an area to the exclusion of most other ground-dwelling ants. The marriage flight has not been observed but, since the sexual castes appear in the nests as early as April and remain in them until the middle of August, it seems probable that the marriage flight occurs in late August or early September.

The distribution of the western population, *subdentata*, is not as well known. It occurs at elevations up to 6300 feet in many of the mountains in southern Arizona. It apparently does not occur on the Sonoran coastal plain but is present in some of the hills which border the inner edge of this plain. Under such conditions its elevational range may descend to 1000 feet or a little less. Since the types of *subdentata* come from Tepic, in Nayarit, it seems safe to assume that this insect occurs in the western foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental through southern Sonora and Sinaloa. The colonies of *subdentata* are also large but the number of majors in a colony is much smaller than in the nests of *hirtula*. While the number of *subdentata* nests in an area is often quite large, this species never seems to exclude other ants from such areas. The marriage flight of *subdentata* occurs in early July in southern Arizona.

It should be apparent from the foregoing discussion that *hirtula* and *subdentata* differ not only in the structure of the