

the largest colony contained 145 workers, the smallest one only twelve workers. It appears, therefore, that the colonies of *subditiva* are always small and seldom, if ever, pleometrotic.

Two captive colonies were established in February 1965 and it was soon apparent that *subditiva* is a very easy ant to maintain in artificial nests. It appears to be omnivorous, since the captive colonies rarely refused anything edible, but it has a strong preference for insect food. The captive colonies ate termites, fruit flies, house flies, crane flies, mosquitos, dermestid beetles, crickets, caterpillars and various moths and butterflies. With the exception of adult sawflies and stoneflies, which they plainly disliked, although they ate them, they accepted this varied insect diet without hesitation. They are one of the few ants which the writer has studied that would eat cut-worms. Their favorite food appeared to be the larvae of buprestid beetles. The ant larvae were mostly fed by regurgitation but, on occasion, bits of insect tissue were placed in their jaws.

In the captive colonies the rate of egg-laying averaged out to slightly less than three eggs per day. The eggs hatched into larvae in about 30 days and these transformed into pupae in about 23 days. The pupal period was about 19 days. The pupae darken extensively after 14 days and at emergence are so deeply colored that there is no callow period in the strict sense of the term. These newly emerged adults can be told from their older nestmates but this is by no means easy for the color difference is slight and largely confined to the lower surface of the body. It is usually easier to tell a "callow" by its actions for, during the first two or three days after emergence they take little part in the nest activities. The pupal exuvium is pulled off in long strips by the workers. Two or three will often work together at stripping off the exuvium, which they apparently eat. During the stripping the emerging imago often assists the process by bending its body from side to side.

It appears that *subditiva* produces and matures brood throughout the year. The writer has taken nests of *subditiva* from the middle of October to the middle of March and these have invariably contained brood. With the exception of two male pupae this brood has been free of sexual forms, hence it seems likely that under ordinary conditions only worker brood is produced during the winter months. It may be added that *subditiva* has no trouble bringing brood through in artificial nests. During the time that the captive colonies were under observation the population of one of them more than tripled.