

tergite is always larger than the sternite the latter is never reduced to a mere collar, and the suture between it and the sternite is visible; although Gotwald (1969) has proved that the two sclerites are fused in most Ponerines. Brown (1958), in speaking of the vaulting of the gaster in *Proceratium* states that, 'The reduced apical segments bear a stout sting and are retractile to some extent within the second segment,' In *Ankylomyrma* the process has been taken still further, so that the reduced apical segments are completely concealed by the first and only the sting projects beyond the limits of this enlarged segment. Brown (1957) has shown that in the Ectatommine genera *Proceratium* and *Discothyrea* the ants are mainly predators upon the eggs of other arthropods. It is possible that the adaption of the gaster provides some advantage in this form of predation, but it seems unlikely that a relatively large, arboreal form such as *Ankylomyrma* has similar food preferences. It would indeed be interesting to discover what this ant subsists upon.

The fringe of spines and teeth borne upon the occipital lamella, and the shape of the occiput itself tends to indicate that in life the head is carried at right-angles to the long axis of the body. The tremendous array of spines and teeth on the head, alitrunk and pedicel suggests that if the ant is disturbed it will either roll up and fall from the tree or merely take a tight grip of the bark and present any potential predator with an efficiently armoured surface, as is seen in some of the larger species of the genus *Cataulacus* F. Smith. Predator size would probably determine which of these reactions was adopted, as in the last-named genus.

The nesting site of the species is unknown, but it may make nests of vegetable fragments either on the undersides of leaves or in the forks of twigs.

REFERENCES

- Brown, W. L. Jr., 1957, Predation of arthropod eggs by the ant genera *Proceratium* and *Discothyrea*, *Psyche, Camb.*, **64**: 115; 1958, Contributions towards a reclassification of the Formicidae II, tribe Ectatommini, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. Harv.*, **118**: 173-362, 48 figs. Gotwald, W. H. Jr., 1969, Comparative morphological studies of the ants, with particular reference to the mouthparts, *Mem. Cornell Univ. agric. Exp. Stn.*, no. **408**: 150 pp., 374 figs.

British Museum, (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.
February 7th, 1972.
