

ahora á la vista esta hormiga, no puedo describirla, pero si aseguro que no es la *militaris* de Fabricio. Se me pasaba decir, que estos animales se desordenan y huyen tomando entre los dedos una tabla y dándole repetidos golpes con un palo como bolillo, es decir, que el tambor que en nuestros soldados arregla y sostiene la marcha, en estos insectos produce el efecto contrario. He visto tambien en estas tribus guerreras, individuos que se distinguen del resto, por su tamaño y color, pero en poca cantidad, lo que me hace sospechar que son las hembras. — México, Julio 21 de 1832".

Genauere Beobachtungen ueber die Zuege von *praedator* verdanken wir Bates. Er schreibt in einem Brief an F. Smith (1858): "This species of *Eciton* differs from all the others in its habits; instead of foraging in narrow columns, it hunts in dense masses of myriads of individuals. Nothing in Entomology is more curious than to watch the vast compact body moving rapidly along; where they pass, all the rest of the insect world is in commotion and alarm. They stream along the ground, and climb to the summit of all the lower trees, searching every leaf to its apex; when they come to a mass of decaying vegetable matter, they cover it with a living crowd, penetrate every chink and cranny, then leave it, and rapidly move on. All apterous insects, especially fat spiders and larvae of *Blattae*, which latter are excessively numerous about the fallen foliage, scamper off before the rapidly moving mass, in quite a ludicrous manner. The smaller larvae of Lepidoptera and Diptera fall an easy prey to them, as well as some of the large obese species of the genus *Formica* [*Camponotus*]. The phalanx altogether, when passing over a tract of open ground, occupies a space of from six to seven square yards; on examining them closely, they are seen to move not altogether in one uniform direction, but in variously spreading dense columns, now separating a little from the general mass, now reuniting with it. The margins of the phalanx, spread out at times like a cloud of skirmishers from the vast army. I have not been able to find their formicarium, and have not the least idea how or where to find it". Belt (1874) in Nicaragua und Schneirla (1934) in Mexico und Panama haben ähnliche Beobachtungen gemacht. Schneirla schreibt: "*Eciton praedator* is a "swarm raider". Colonies of this species bivouac in subterranean places, but the pattern of raiding behavior is very similar to that of *E. burchelli*. From the place of emergence a mass of the small ants, often more than three meters in width, advances on the surface in the meandering manner described above, but the advance varies more frequently in its general direction. The swarm of small ants leaves behind it an anastomosis of wide and loosely formed columns which converges into a few consolidation columns in which the ants pass beneath leaves to points in the rear. As in *E. burchelli* raids, here and there behind the mass there remains a concentration of ants engaged in "mopping up", busily capturing booty that escaped the principal swarm".

Die Orientierung geschieht durch den Geruchssinn. In Petropolis nahm ich vor Jahren mit einem Karton einen Soldaten aus einem Zuge und setzte ihn in 1 Meter Entfernung nieder; er zeigte sich voellig desorientiert. Wie bei andern Ecitoninen, so kommt es auch bei *praedator* vor, dass ein Teil der Arbeiter den Kontakt mit dem Hauptzuge verliert und dann im Kreise herumlaeuft "bis zum bitteren Ende" (s. Schneirla 1944). Schwarzmaier (Brief v. 1936) beobachtete einen solchen Fall von Instinktverirrung in Goiás; er sah eine Menge Arbeiter in der Kueche eine auf dem Boden stehende Blechdose umkreisen; nach Entfernung der Dose liefen sie studenlang weiter, bis sie umfielen.