Biologie. — Die Kenntnis der Lebensweise von *burchelli* ist besonders durch die Untersuchungen Schneirla's (1933-1953) gefoerdert worden. (Vgl. oben meine Zusammenfassung seiner Beobachtungen). *E. burchelli* ist ein typischer Waldbewohner mit ausschliesslich epigaeischer Lebensweise. Waehrend andere Arten derselben Gattung (z. B. *vagans, quadriglume*) ihre temporaeren Nester zuweilen im Boden anlegen, sind die Nester von *burchelli* stets oberirdisch angebracht. Die Beutezuege werden in breiten Schwaermen veranstaltet. Schneirla beobachtete eine Kolonie vom 18. Juni bis 10. August 1938 und gibt eine genaue Tabelle seiner Befunde (1945 p. 174). Die nomadische Phase umfasst 13-14 Tage, und die sesshafte Phase 21-24 Tage. Bei einer Gelegenheit zaehlte Schneirla 36.888 Larven und 31.298 Puppen.

Beebe (1919) gibt eine interessante Schilderung des Einspinnens der Larven in Kokons. Er beobachtete in Britisch Guiana eine Kolonie, die ihr Biwak im Lagerraum des Kartabo-Laboratoriums aufgeschlagen hatte; eine Anzahl von Larven waren auf einem alten Brett deponiert. Beebe schreibt: "On the flat board were several thousand ants and a dozen or more groups of full-grown larvae. Workers of all sizes were searching everywhere for some covering for the tender immature creatures. They had chewed up all available loose splinters of wood, and near the rotten, termite-eaten end, the sound of dozens of jaws gnawing all at once was plainly audible. This unaccustomed, unmilitary labor produced a quantity of fine dawdust which was sprinkled over the larvae. I had made a partition of a bit of a British officer's tent which I had used in India and China, made of several layers of colored canvas and cloth. The ants found a loose end of this, teased it out, and unraveled it, so that all the larvae near by were blanketed with a gray parti-colored covering of fuzz. All this strange work was hurried and carried on under great excitement. The scores of big soldiers on guard appeared rather ill at ease, as if they had wandered by mistake into the wrong department. They sauntered about, bumped into larvae, turned and fled. A constant stream of workers from the nest brought hundreds more larvae, and no sooner had they been planted and débris of sorts sifted over them, than they began spinning. A few had already swathed themselves in cocoons — exceedingly thin coverings of pinkish silk. As this took place out of the nest, in the jungle, they must be covered with wood and leaves. The vital necessity of this was not apparent, for none of this débris was incorporated into the silk of the cocoons, which were clean and homogeneous. Yet the hundreds of ants gnawed and tore and labored to gather this little dust. as if their very lives depended upon it... When first brought from the nest, the larvae lay quite straight and still, but almost at once they bent far over in the spinning position. Then some officious worker would come along, and the unfortunate larva would be snatched up, and jammed down in some neighboring empty space, like a bolt of cloth rearranged upon a shelf. Then another ant would approach, antenna the larva, disapprove, and again shift its position. It was a real survival of the lucky, as to who should avoid being exhausted by kindness and over-solicitude... There was no order of packing. The larvae were fitted together anyway, and meagerly covered with dust of wood and shreds of cloth. One big tissue of wood nearly an inch square was to great a temptation to be left alone, and during the course of my observation it covered in turn almost every group of larvae in sight, ending by being accidentally shunted over the edge and killing a worker near the kitchen middens. There was only a