

Dass *raptor* Sm. gleich *rapax* Sm. ist, darüber lassen die Figuren kaum einen Zweifel, da sie genau mit denen übereinstimmen, die Smith 1858 auf Taf. 6 veröffentlicht hat.

Variation. — Abgesehen von den strukturellen Veränderungen, welche durch den Polymorphismus der Arbeiter bedingt sind, variieren Individuen verschiedener Herkunft sehr wenig. Die Färbung der Beine ist bei den Exemplaren von Bolivien schwarz, bei denen von Pará mehr rotbraun.

Biologie. — Ueber die Lebensweise von *rapax* liegen bisher nur wenige Beobachtungen vor. Smith (1858) zitiert folgende briefliche Mitteilung von Bates: "This is the largest species of the genus that I have seen; its columns are narrower than those of the other species, in fact they generally run along in single file, and forage in the same way. I have found them carrying off great numbers of cocoons of a species of *Formica* [*Camponotus*]; I have searched the columns long and repeatedly without finding any individuals with large heads and long mandibles". Bates (1863) bemerkt: "*Eciton rapax*, the giant of the genus, whose worker-majors are half-an-inch in length, hunts in single file through the forest. There is no division into classes amongst its workers, although the difference in size is very great, some being scarcely one-half the length of the others. The head and jaws, however, are always of the same shape, and a gradation in size is presented from the largest to the smallest, so that all are able to take part in the common labours of the colony. The chief employment of the species seems to be plundering the nests of a large and defenceless ant of another genus (*Formica*), whose mangled bodies I have often seen in their possession, as they were marching away. The armies of *Eciton rapax* are never very numerous". Mann (1916) teilt folgendes mit: "Two small files of this beautiful species were found at Porto Velho and Camp 41, Madeira-Mamoré R. R. These were running along beneath the loose covering of leaves on the ground. The ants were very timid and the file dispersed as soon as it was disturbed". — Marcus (1953) beschreibt Nesselhaare der Larven von "*rapax*"; vielleicht handelte es sich aber um geraubte Ponerinen-Larven. Soweit mir bekannt ist, sind bisher nur zwei Gastarten beschrieben worden, die gesetzmässig bei *rapax* leben; es sind die beiden Staphyliniden: *Wasmannotherium gigas* Wasm. und *Ecitophya rapacis* Mann (s. Borgmeier 1949).

Originalbeschreibung

Eciton rapax F. Smith (1855). — "Worker. Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines. The head, thorax and legs of an opaque black; seven or eight of the apical joints of the flagellum fulvous beneath; the head and mandibles as in *E. curvidentata*; the edges of the cavity for the reception of the antennae rather more raised at the sides; the metathorax armed with two acute spines; the articulations of the legs, the apex of the tibiae and tips of the joints of tarsi, ferruginous; the first node of the abdomen having beneath a small spine curved backward; the abdomen reddish-yellow, thinly sprinkled with pale pubescence; the legs, head, thorax and antennae sprinkled with black hairs. — This species was found by Mr. Bates at Pará, and also at Santarem; I have not been able to find any description of it, and believe it to be a new species. It is found in the virgin forests of Brazil, as observed by Mr. Bates, not in open sandy situations like most of the other species".