

other species. The locality in which I observed it being an open district, it afforded me an opportunity of observing some parts of its habits, and the business which occupies its immense processions; the columns of the other species I have always observed marching in the dense thorny thickets of the forest, so that the same facilities for observation do not offer themselves, and no human endurance can sustain the overwhelming attacks, the cruel sting and bite of these formidable insects. In this smaller species, although they climb by hundreds over one's person, in the same sudden way, the sting is not at all formidable. The first time I met with this species, it was near sunset: I found the column consisted of two trains of ants, moving in opposite directions; one train empty handed, the other laden with a variety of the mangled remains of insects, chiefly however the larvae and pupae of ants. I had no difficulty in tracing the line to the spot from which they were conveying their prey; this was in a low thicket, the *Ecitons* were moving rapidly about a heap of dead leaves; the tropical twilight was deepening, and I deferred further examination till the next day. On the following morning I found no trace of the ants in the place I had left them the preceding day, nor in the thicket were there any signs of insects of any description; but, at the distance of eighty or hundred yards, I found them again, evidently engaged on another piece of business, a razzia of a similar kind, but requiring other resources of their instincts; they were eagerly occupied on the face of an inclined bank of light earth, excavating mines, whence, from the depth of eight or ten inches, they were extracting the bodies of a bulky species of *Formica* [*Camponotus*]. It was curious to see them crowding round the orifices of the mines, and assisting their comrades to lift out the bodies of the *Formicae*; the latter, being too bulky for one *Eciton* to carry, it was torn into pieces, and the laden marauders forthwith started off with their booty. On excavating the earth about the mines, I found the *Formicae* at the depth of about eight inches, also their larvae and pupae. As fast as I excavated, the *Ecitons* rushed in, seizing the ants; I had great difficulty in securing a few specimens, they disputed them with me even in my hands; in excavating their mines, they assisted one another in so systematic a manner, with an appearance of so much intelligent co-operation, that it was truly a wonderful sight; those in the mines lifted up the pellets of earth to others stationed at the entrance, who forthwith conveyed them to a few inches distance from the place. I now turned towards the line of ants returning with their spoil of mutilated remains. For some distance there were many lines of them moving along the declivity of the bank, but at a short distance these converged; I then traced them to a large indurated and ancient Termitarium; up the ascent of this the *Ecitons* were moving in a dense column, like a stream of liquid metal; many were now assisting in lugging up the bodies of the *Formicae*, and the whole disappeared in one of the spacious tubular cavities which always traverse these old Termitaria from the summit to the base. It would appear, from what I observed, that *Eciton* feeds its larvae with animal food; the species of *Formicae* seized by this species of *Eciton* has a soft succulent body, and, if not intended as food for the larva, for what other purpose are they procured? probably, like the leaves gathered by *Oecodoma* [*Atta*], they pass through a process of comminution, before being supplied to the larvae".

Reichensperger (1930) beschrieb erstmalig das Weibchen, ueber dessen Entdeckung er folgendes berichtet: "Dank der eifrigen Bemuehungen meiner Freunde im Franziskaner-Kolleg in Rio Negro [Paraná] erhielt ich nunmehr im November letzten Jahres auch das noch unbe-