

Some species, particularly those with red heads or other aposematic coloration, apparently forage in the open more during the day. No systematic comparative study has yet been made of foraging hours for different species.

The food of *Odontomachiti* consists principally of living arthropods caught and killed or incapacitated by the ants. Wheeler (1900: 12) relates vividly how he placed a living housefly in a nest of *O. clarus* (called by him «*O. haematodes*»):

«Its movements at once attracted several ants, which began snapping at it like a pack of angry dogs. With each snap a leg or wing was severed and often thrown to a distance of 2 or 3 inches. In less than a minute all the limbs had been shorn from the trunk. The fly was then seized and decapitated».

Wheeler found that *O. clarus* would also eat caterpillars, beetles, and small Hemiptera, as well as sugar, bread, cake, etc.

Ledoux (1952) thought that *Odontomachus* are «strictly entomophagous», based on his observations in West Africa on *O. assiniensis*, but his only reported observations are based on nest-founding queens, which he says will «not touch sugary substances». He finds that the food of *O. assiniensis* «consists above all of termites», although it will also take other kinds of small insects encountered during its foraging on the soil surface.

*O. troglodytes*, the African member of the *haematodus* group, to which *O. clarus* also belongs, definitely tends Homoptera. Evans and Leston (1971) show that it attends scale insects (*Stictococcus*) and aphids (*Toxoptera*) on cacao in Ghana, and even builds tents of soil particles over the homopteran colonies. *O. troglodytes* also carries drops of honeydew between its closed mandibles near their tips, a habit recalling that commonly seen in *Paraponera*, *Ectatomma*, and some large Ponerini, which often carry drops of honeydew or nectar between their partly-open mandibles down from the tree tops to their nests. On the other hand, Evans and Leston found that *O. troglodytes* treats the mealybug *Planococcoides njalensis*, also found on cacao, as prey.

Whether some *Odontomachus* species or groups never feed on sugary substances is a matter for future checking. *Odontomachus* and *Anochetus*, when imbibing liquids, usually do so with their jaws in the locked-open position.

*O. assiniensis* uses its sting readily to capture termites (up to 8 or 10 mm long, or somewhat less than the length of the ant itself), but smaller insects may be killed by a simple mandi-