

e) Nest relocation

The maze with colony 1 was also designed for finding out whether *Sphinctomyrmex* would move into the "nest" of a prey species, in case that transportation of the booty from it to their nest was not possible. In all the experiments, however, where the prey ants were placed in the compartments C, D or E, and where the narrow passages prohibited their being carried away, the *Sphinctomyrmex* never exhibited any tendencies to move into the respective compartment.

Nevertheless, several nest relocations occurred spontaneously: From January 13 onwards the colony remained in X for 3 weeks; the ants moved to Y on 2nd February, taking *Myrmica* brood with them, then, the same day, moved to Z, where they remained for 10 days. On February 12 the colony moved to X, three days later back to Z, the next day to X, where it remained for 26 days until March 14. On this day, the colony split up, most of it moving to D (where, however, no prey ants had been offered for the preceding 3 weeks), but a few remaining in X with some large *Myrmica*-pupae, and

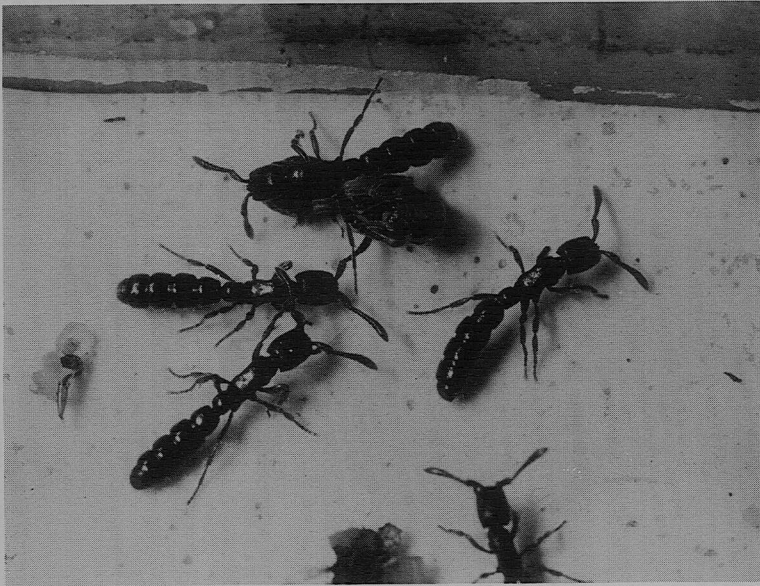


Fig. 4. A *Sphinctomyrmex* worker carrying a prey pupa under the body.