



Figs. 1–4. Biology of *Cladomyrma*. **1.** Colony foundation by queen of *C. petalae* in *Saraca thaipingensis*. **2.** Internode of *Saraca thaipingensis* with nest of *C. petalae*; **2a.** Entrance hole made by the queen is closed with pith remains, the small, slit-shaped openings are gnawed by the queen from inside; **2b.** Dissected *Saraca* internode showing founding chamber, queen of *C. petalae*, and brood. Internode with nest of *C. petalae*; big opening entrance hole made by the queen, and small, slit-shaped opening gnawed by the queen from inside to allow mealybugs to enter. Crawlers of trophobiontic mealybugs readily use the slits to enter the founding chamber (JM, personal obs.). **3.** Mature nest of *C. maschwitzi* with mealybugs. **4.** *C. petalae* workers on young bud of the woody climber *Spatholobus bracteolatus*.

species-dependent variation in the degree of aggression; e.g., *C. maschwitzi* appears to be less aggressive in case of disturbance than other species. In some species the major workers will search for and bite into tender spots of any myrmecologist even two hours after he has broken up the nest. *Cladomyrma* workers (cf. *andrei*, *maschwitzi*, and *petalae*) are not only able to bite but to spit as well. They ingest rainwater, which may intrude into their stem domatia and regurgitate it to the outside. It is not known if “water-bailing” is displayed by the other species as well; field and experimental data are lacking.

This unusual behavior, only once previously reported for ants, appears to be a trait connected to their obligate colonization of myrmecophytes (Moog et al., 1997).

#### DISTRIBUTION

*Cladomyrma* seems to be restricted in its distribution to the ever-wet part of the West Malaysian floristic region, comprising the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, and Sumatra (fig. 5). The western boundary lies across the Kra Isthmus, just north of the border between Malaysia and Thailand. The genus does not