

Table of Contents

	Page
Preface	5
Acknowledgments	5
GENERAL PART	
1. Introduction	11
2. Body structure and function	11
3. Ontogeny and caste differentiation	14
4. Habitats of ants	16
5. Nests of ants	19
6. The dominance of ants in the ecosystems	22
7. Swarming and mating	24
8. Colony foundation and life cycle	26
8.1. Independent colony foundation	26
8.1.1. Independent colony foundation by single gynes	26
8.1.2. Independent colony foundation by formation of daughter nests	27
8.2. Social parasitism	27
8.2.1. Invading a host colony – the most critical point in the life of a social parasite	28
8.2.2. Guest ants – xenobiosis	31
8.2.3. Temporary social parasitism	31
8.2.4. Permanent social parasitism	32
8.2.4.1. Permanent tenants – inquilines	32
8.2.4.2. Obligatory slave-makers – obligatory dulosis	33
8.2.4.3. Degenerate slave-makers	37
9. Feeding strategies of ants	37
9.1. Zoophages – hunters and scavengers	37
9.2. Trophobiosis – mutualism with honeydew producers	38
9.3. Direct use of plant sap and nectar	41
9.4. The distribution of seeds by ants – myrmecochory	43
9.5. The harvester ants – granivory	44
9.6. Use of pollen – pollenvory	46
9.7. Casual thieves and true thief ants – kleptobiosis	46
10. Relations of ants to Blue Butterflies (Lycaenidae)	47
11. Ant guests which are not ants	51
12. Enemies of ants	55
SPECIAL PART	
13. Collecting and preparation of ants, optical equipment	59
14. List of ant species with permanent outdoor occurrence in the reference area	61
15. Checklist of German ants – vulnerability, distribution and ecological gross assessment	66
16. The ecological preferences and tolerances of ant species to particular abiotic and biotic environmental factors	70
17. Morphology and genetics – what defines the true species identity?	75
18. The singular function of Numeric-Morphology-Based Alpha-Taxonomy	77
19. Maintaining Linnean binomial nomenclature and the functionality of scientific language	78
Determination keys	
20. The subfamilies of Formicidae	79
20. Subfamily Ponerinae	79
20. Subfamily Myrmicinae	80
20. Genus <i>Crematogaster</i>	81
20. Genus <i>Strongylognathus</i>	85
20. Genus <i>Myrmoxenus</i>	86
20. Genus <i>Leptothorax</i> and <i>Temnothorax flavicornis</i>	88

20.	Genus <i>Temnothorax</i>	90
20.	Genus <i>Myrmica</i>	99
20.	Genus <i>Stenamma</i>	108
20.	Genus <i>Aphaenogaster</i>	110
20.	Genus <i>Tetramorium</i>	110
20.	Subfamily Dolichoderinae	113
20.	Genus <i>Bothriomyrmex</i>	114
20.	Genus <i>Tapinoma</i>	115
20.	Subfamily Formicinae	116
20.	Genera <i>Camponotus</i> and <i>Colobopsis</i>	118
20.	Genus <i>Plagiolepis</i>	122
20.	Genus <i>Cataglyphis</i>	123
20.	Genus <i>Lasius</i>	123
20.	Genus <i>Formica</i>	134
21.	Life histories and profiles of all ant species in the reference area	144
21.	Genus <i>Ponera</i>	145
21.	Genus <i>Cryptopone</i>	147
21.	Genus <i>Hypoponera</i>	148
21.	Genus <i>Proceratium</i>	151
21.	Genus <i>Strumigenys</i>	152
21.	Genus <i>Manica</i>	153
21.	Genus <i>Myrmica</i>	154
21.	Genus <i>Symbiomyrma</i>	174
21.	Genus <i>Aphaenogaster</i>	175
21.	Genus <i>Messor</i>	176
21.	Genus <i>Crematogaster</i>	178
21.	Genus <i>Pheidole</i>	181
21.	Genus <i>Solenopsis</i>	182
21.	Genus <i>Monomorium</i>	184
21.	Genus <i>Cardiocondyla</i>	186
21.	Genus <i>Myrmecina</i>	188
21.	Genus <i>Leptothorax</i>	190
21.	Genus <i>Harpagoxenus</i>	196
21.	Genus <i>Formicoxenus</i>	198
21.	Genus <i>Temnothorax</i>	200
21.	Genus <i>Myrmoxenus</i>	219
21.	Genus <i>Chalepoxenus</i>	223
21.	Genus <i>Stenamma</i>	224
21.	Genus <i>Tetramorium</i>	227
21.	Genus <i>Anergates</i>	234
21.	Genus <i>Teleutomyrmex</i>	235
21.	Genus <i>Strongylognathus</i>	236
21.	Genus <i>Dolichoderus</i>	239
21.	Genus <i>Linepithema</i>	241
21.	Genus <i>Tapinoma</i>	242
21.	Genus <i>Bothriomyrmex</i>	247
21.	Genus <i>Liometopum</i>	248
21.	Genus <i>Plagiolepis</i>	250
21.	Genus <i>Prenolepis</i>	254
21.	Genus <i>Camponotus</i>	256
21.	Genus <i>Colobopsis</i>	266
21.	Genus <i>Lasius</i>	268
21.	Genus <i>Cataglyphis</i>	297
21.	Genus <i>Formica</i>	299
21.	Genus <i>Polyergus</i>	345

ATTACHMENT

22.	Glossary of scientific terms	348
23.	References	351
24.	Register of genus and species names of ants	394
25.	Explanation of acronyms and recording rules in the determination keys	399



Fig. 1: Worker of *Myrmica ruginodis* with prey. (photo M. Kukla)