

NORTHERN EXTENT OF ATTINE ANTS
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

The northernmost species of attine or fungus-growing ant appears to be *Trachymyrnex septentrionalis* McCook. This was formerly recorded from the north shore of Long Island, (Latitude 40°50'N) New York, but in the last half century the northern records are from the New Jersey Pine Barrens (Weber, 1956, Ecology 37:150-161, 197-199). Long Island records would now be particularly desired in view of the intensive urbanization and the destruction of open, sandy pine-oak woods which are the normal habitat along the Eastern Seashore. Latitude 40° North seems now to be approximately the northern limit here.

In the interior of the United States the northern records of this species appear to be southern Ohio in the Latitude 39° area and an unpublished record of George Rotramel from Mason State Forest, Illinois in July 1965. I visited the latter area on 16 June 1969 and found colonies abundant 0.4 mile West of the limits of Forest

City (Mason County, Illinois), which is approximately Latitude 40°22'North. It appears that the ants migrated up the Mississippi Valley to the Illinois River, following the melting of ice in the Pleistocene. These records are a distinct extension of the range shown in my map in SCIENCE, 1966, 153:587-604.

The next most northern attine appears to be *Cyphomyrmex wheeleri* Forel, taken recently by R. R. Snelling in Merced and Tulare Counties, California, and by G. C. and J. Wheeler in the Death Valley National Monument region, California, all in the Latitude 36-37° North area. These again are distinct extensions of range as shown in the 1966 map. *Atta mexicana* (F. Smith) still occurs in the Organ Pipe National Monument, Arizona, close to Latitude 32° N. This tribe of ants is largely tropical and South American. The field work involved was aided by NSF Grant GB-5346.—NEAL A. WEBER, *Department of Biology, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081.*