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GENERAL NOTES

THE ANTS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) OF THE CADDO LAKE REGION OF NORTHEAST TEXAS

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Caddo Lake, located in northeast Texas, represents a unique bald-cypress ecosystem. It is unique not only in its origin but also in its distribution of cypress trees which are found throughout much of the lake. Caddo is the only natural lake in the state of Texas and one of the largest natural lakes in the South. This study was undertaken to determine a preliminary listing of the ant species of the islands and cypress trees in this unique habitat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were collected from April through August of 1996. Only those ants that could be reached from a boat were collected from cypress trees. Specimens were collected with forceps and placed in 70% isopropyl alcohol. Specimens were later dry mounted, identified and deposited with the Texas A&M Insect Collection (Voucher No. 622).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thirteen species of ants were collected. Table 1 lists the species and location(s) where they were collected. There are likely more species present on the islands and cypress trees than reported in this study. Sampling was limited to that part of the trees that could be reached from a boat and collection was only done during daylight hours. There is a good possibility of additional ant species living high in the cypress trees or species that are active only at night.

Nine species of ants were found on six isolated cypress trees while only seven species were found at ten collecting sites on the islands. On the cypress trees in water, one tree had four species, three trees had two species and two trees had one species. *Tapinoma sessile* was collected from a cavity in a cypress tree. One cypress tree located on the bank

Table 1. Ant species collected and collection sites.

Cypress trees in water:	**Number of Sites**
Crematogaster lineolata (Say)	2
Crematogaster clara Mayr	1
Aphaenogaster lamellidens Mayr	1
Camponotus pennsylvanicus (DeGeer)	1
Camponotus rasilis Wheeler	3
Leptothorax schaumi Roger	1
Tapinoma sessile (Say)	1
Solenopsis invicta Buren	1
Pheidole sp.	1
Island collections:	**Collection Site(s)**
Crematogaster lineolata (Say)	Cypress tree, fallen log & forest floor
Aphaenogaster fulva Roger	Cypress tree & forest floor
Camponotus pennsylvanicus (DeGeer)	Cypress tree (2 sites), hickory tree & forest floor
Camponotus americanus Mayr	Fallen log
Leptothorax pergandei Emery	Fallen log
Solenopsis invicta Buren	River bank & forest floor
Formica sp.	Fallen log (2 sites)

of an island had three species while one cypress tree in the interior of the island had only one species.

The only known report of an ant species living on cypress trees isolated in water is that of *Crematogaster vermiculata* Emery which has been found only when associated with bald cypress (Buren 1968). Most of the species found have not been reported on such cypress trees to the authors' knowledge. Two species of ants, *Aphaenogaster lamellidens* and *Camponotus rasilis* are not found in the checklist of Texas ants by Wheeler & Wheeler (1985). It should be noted, however, that Creighton (1950:389) reported *Camponotus rasilis* from Texas.

The number of ant species collected on the cypress trees was unexpected. Although three species of ants were collected from a cypress tree on the bank of an island, the cypress trees isolated in water appear to have more life on them such as dragonflies, spiders and insects than do the trees on the islands. Further investigation into the diversity of life on these trees and their ecology would be of great interest.

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UNUSUAL NESTING O
CAIRINA MOSCHATA IN

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The distribution of the Muscovy
southern Texas (Hidalgo, Starr an
and central Mexico, south through
to northern Argentina and southe
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species nests at heights of 3-20 m i
in artificial nest boxes (Johnsgard
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This note documents an unusual
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99°01'27''W).

On 15 February 1997, a male a
observed perched on crevices in th
observed on the floor of the cave
covered ducklings. The species
However, below one large crevice
the cave floor) a large pile of dow

ction sites.

Number of Sites	Collection Site(s)
2	Cypress tree, fallen log & forest floor
1	Cypress tree & forest floor
1	Cypress tree (2 sites), hickory tree & forest floor
1	Fallen log
3	Fallen log
1	River bank & forest floor
1	Fallen log (2 sites)
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WLEDGMENTS

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UNUSUAL NESTING OF THE MUSCOVY DUCK *CAIRINA MOSCHATA* IN NORTHEASTERN MEXICO

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The distribution of the Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* extends from southern Texas (Hidalgo, Starr and Zapata counties), and northeastern and central Mexico, south through Central America and South America to northern Argentina and southern Bolivia (Leopold 1959; Gomez-Dallmeier & Cringan 1989; Howell & Webb 1995; TOS 1995). The species nests at heights of 3-20 m in tree hollows, between palm leaves, in artificial nest boxes (Johnsgard 1975; Cruz-Nieto 1991) and rarely in rushes on the ground (Phillips 1923).

This note documents an unusual nesting of the Muscovy Duck (at the western boundary of the species' distribution) in a crevice in the wall of a cave in northeastern Mexico. The limestone cave (40 m wide by 20 m high by 35 m deep) has an east-facing entrance in a cliff about 100 m above Mexico Highway 85 and is located 3 km southwest of Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas near the small village of El Abra (22°36'33''N, 99°01'27''W).

On 15 February 1997, a male and 11 female Muscovy Ducks were observed perched on crevices in the walls of the cave. One female was observed on the floor of the cave brooding a group of 15-18 down-covered ducklings. The species is not known to construct a nest. However, below one large crevice in the cave wall (about 15 m above the cave floor) a large pile of down had collected, likely fallen from a