

## MYGRATORY ACTIVITY OF *Acromyrmex crassispinus* (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE).

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The migratory activity has been described as a common phenomenon for some ant species. For leaf-cutting ants, colony migration is a poorly studied phenomenon, however ants belonging to genus *Acromyrmex* can emigrate easier than *Atta* species, because their nests have few chambers, being more superficial and smaller than *Atta* nests. The colony migration in *Acromyrmex* genus, has been observed for *Acromyrmex octospinosus*, in Paraguay, reaching 60 meters away, and the same distance was observed for one nest of *A. crassispinus*. The factors that triggered the migration were attributed to natural phenomena, such as flooding, competitive pressure between colonies or attributed to human interferences during soil preparation and leaf-cutting ants control activities. The recognition of a nest that the colony emigrated to a new location is important, because is possible to distinguish from a controlled nest (dead) with applications of insecticides. A controlled nest has decomposed fungus or dead ants, while the nest that colony emigrated is left empty. In June 17, 2013, at Embrapa Florestas area, Colombo-PR, it was observed the emigration of a colony of *Acromyrmex crassispinus*. The distance between the original and the new nest was 80 meters. The original nest had 1.10 x 0.87m in diameter and, the new nest had 1.08 x 0.87m, maintaining the same proportions in diameter. The observations were carried out only during the day and the migratory activity had duration of two days. There was no observation of transportation of pieces of the fungus garden, larvae and pupas during observations. It is possible that the transport of the fungus and brood took place at night. But, it was verified, yet, a great number of minor workers carried by major workers. Colony migration probably occurred because of rainfall in the previous day of observation (33.4 mm), which may have saturated the soil. However, further studies are needed to better elucidate the causes of this migration, whereas fifteen days before, precipitation was high (28.6 mm) followed by a dry period (4.2 mm, of fourteen days) and after migration there was a rainy period (269.2 mm distributed along 12 days). This fact raises a hypothesis that *A. crassispinus* can "predict" the occurrence of wet periods, but this mechanism was not recognized on this occasion.