

S U M M A R Y

Complete control of bachacs was achieved with the use of both HORMIFIN and of MIREX 450. MIREX 450 has greater attractant capabilities while HORMIFIN displays a greater insecticidal potential.

Since HORMIFIN is not attractive to the bachacs, it should be administered down the entrance of a nest. This raises the old difficult problem of nest-finding before treatment.

MIREX 450 on the other hand can be applied anywhere along the forage trail and the ants will fetch it into their nests, but its lethal dosage is higher than that of HORMIFIN.

Although both insecticides gave complete control, the ideal insecticide is still to be formulated, and should combine the attractant property of MIREX 450 with the insecticidal property of the HORMIFIN.

The bachac nest has a characteristic pattern of activity which is constant for the particular nest, though the period of activity varies from nest to nest.

The parasol ants avoid water and will only carry out their activities under firm fairly dry soil conditions.

The nest has a basic pattern of behaviour but it alters its activities in response to changes in the environment thereby maintaining equilibrium.

There is a strict division of labour among the ant castes outside the nest, the soldiers are concerned only with offensive and defensive duties, the intermedia and maxima workers are concerned with foraging and clearing of the forage track while the minima workers are charged exclusively with excavation duties.

The parasol ants do eat materials other than their fungus, though they are exclusively, vegetarian. They show a predilection for the tissues of a citrus fruit.

The development of the soldier caste in a nest depends on sub-specific grouping and to external situations to which the nest is exposed. In a constantly disturbed situation the development of soldiers is advanced.