

Distribution and host preference of the ant species *Oecophylla smaragdina* in some villages of Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division

Thanda Tun *

Abstract

Distribution and host preference of the ant species *Oecophylla smaragdina* were investigated in some villages of Thanlyin Township. The study areas are Tar Wa village, Phayar Gone village, 18 Gone (Thè Phyu Chaung village), Aung Chan Tha Ward, Ahmuhtan Ward, and Bogyoke village of Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division. This study was carried out from June 2016 to June 2018. In this study it was found that *Oecophylla smaragdina* colonies' nests were occurred in different kinds of plants and trees. *Oecophylla smaragdina* species maintained the whole tree as their own territory and a colony might have one to ten sub unit nests. Some of the colonies were found in two kinds of Ponenyet, Yétama trees at Tar Wa village (near East Yangon University Environs) and found only two sub unit nests in these trees. Some of the colonies were found in Malaysia Padauk trees. Kyun with only three of the sub-unit nests at Phayar Gone village and 18 Gone village (Thè Phyu Creek). In Ahmuhtan Ward (near Golf Club of Thanlyin), some of the colonies were found in Padauk, Thayet, Myayar, Yétama, Badamyaku, Maezale and Shintmatat trees. In Bogyoke village (Monastery), the colonies were found in many trees, there are Thiho, Maezale, Kyewekaw, Bukha, Thayet, Padauk, and Jack fruit, five to ten colonies were found in each species. Most of weaver ants are found in high trees such as Thayet trees; however, they are also found in small trees or shrubs. Weaver ants are used as food and medicine. The larvae and pupae are collected and processed into bird food, fish bait and in the production of traditional medicines in some parts of Myanmar. Therefore, we considerable benefit will be derived from their services, including edible food, medicine, and the biological control of pests.

Key words: distribution, host preference, ant species

* Professor, Dr., Department of Biology, Yangon University of Education