Notes

Proximate cause of ant hitchhiking behavior:

1. Population pressure

Determinants of a successful hitchhiking event:

1. Behavior: searching activity
2. Ecology: habitat use
3. Morphology: leg structure and climbing ability
4. Physiology: thermal tolerance

Potential experiments:

1. Drought and heat tolerance tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species
2. Climbing ability tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species
3. Searching and locating ability tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species
4. The effects of car color on the probability of ant hitchhiking on vehicles
5. The attractiveness of rubber odor to ant species