Notes

1. Phases of ant hitchhiking on vehicles:
2. Trigger: Ant species that are more active in searching for new nesting sites and under higher population pressure are more likely to colonize the vehicles (behavioral traits)
3. Climbing ability: Ant species with better climbing abilities are more likely to colonize the vehicles (morphological traits)
4. Willingness to colonize: Ant species that can utilize a wider range of habitats and artificial structures are more likely to colonize the vehicles (habitat and biology)
5. Survival: Ant species that can tolerate high temperatures (e.g., engine heat and car heating up in the sun) (thermal generalists) are more likely to colonize the vehicles (physiological traits)
6. A few photos of ant hitchhiking (workers, queens, eggs, larvae)
7. Potential experiments:
8. Drought and heat tolerance tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species.
9. Climbing ability tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species.
10. Searching and locating ability tests of 3 most locally-abundant ant species & 3 most commonly-reported hitchhiking ant species.
11. Will car color affect the probability of ant hitchhiking on vehicles?