I reviewed the revision, and while it is much improved, a few issues with this manuscript remain, and I provide a few suggestions below that will improve the clarity and credibility of this paper.  
  
LIne 24: Add “Five years following removal treatments,”  
  
Line 26: Add, relative to control plots  
  
LIne 27:  I would be more cautious in your claim since the pattern you observed could arise from “not always being elaiosome limited” or simply that the effectiveness of your removal treatments declined over the 5 years that went by between removal treatments and revisiting ant communities, as your plant survey suggests.  
  
LIne 61 minor grammatical error  
  
Line 70: you’re not really referring to a question here– This is more of an objective.  
  
119-122: I’m not finding the methodological detail requested by the reviewer in the appendix.  It’s still not clear if you noted the presence/absence or abundance of each of the plants in your survey.  Also, I know it’s not exactly the same site, but if you presented the 2010 survey as a pie chart similar to Fig 1, that would be much more useful for readers.  I don’t understand the purpose of your species accumulation curves.  The primary value of those “pre” surveys is showing what an unmanipulated community originally looked like way back when.  
  
Line 239: Do you mean forest loss?  
  
Somewhere in the discussion, I would like to see the author qualify their conclusions with a clearer acknowledgement that the non-significant reductions in aphaenogaster might simply be due to the fact that the elaisome removal treatments were barely detectable 5 years out.  Perennial plants appear robust to disturbance, and this seems like a more likely explanation than the claim that mutualisms are robust to disturbance (made at 234)  
  
Line 256:  Please add some additional acknowledgement that your study lacks baseline data needed to confirm that ant-myrmecochore mutualisms are indeed robust to disturbance  
  
Line 282:  Why? The purpose of this sentence is unclear  
  
Line 283:  Explanation for what?