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**Ant Interactions in NATL Report**

Updating NATL’s “ant list” and making an ant list (plaque) for the public were the intended goals for this project. However, after unsuccessful (insignificant) collecting opportunities, the project was revamped to have a more impactful purpose in the end. This new goal for the project included part of the previous one, but focused primarily on making a list of the common ants that typical NATL visitors would expect to see on a journey in NATL, but also to include species that are unique and display behaviors the public wouldn’t typically associate with ants. Five of the ants are species that one can find without doing much searching, while another five are going to be the somewhat common and quite unique if the visitor takes a second look in the underbrush and leaf litter.

Collecting first began with pitfall traps setup in the hardwood hammock, pine scrubland, and open field ecosystems. Pitfalls were setup and left for three days and nights and then replaced. This went on for two weeks. Then, light trapping for alates (to get an understanding of what was out flying during nuptial flights) was the next goal. After about a month of unsuccessful light-trapping (weather was uncooperative in addition to me being out of the country for a month missing the best times to trap), winkler leaf-litter samples were taken in the aforementioned ecosystems. Hand collecting was done the entire time in addition to the other sampling methods.

After re-thinking the project idea to focus on making a “Top 10” list, hand collecting and previous winkler sampling were the primary sampling procedures and data sources. New ants were found (that were not previously on the ant list already on the NATL website) and can be used to add to the list, they are below including their subfamily:

Subfamily: Formicinae

Species: *Colobopsis impressa*

Subfamily: Myrmicinae

*Pheidole obscurithorax*

Subfamily: Proceratiini

*Discothyrea testacea*

Subfamily: Pseudomyrmecinae

Species: *Pseudomyrmex pallidus*

A picture of the final product, as seen below, can be used as a guide to show NATL visitors some of the common and not-so-common ants they are likely to see in NATL:

