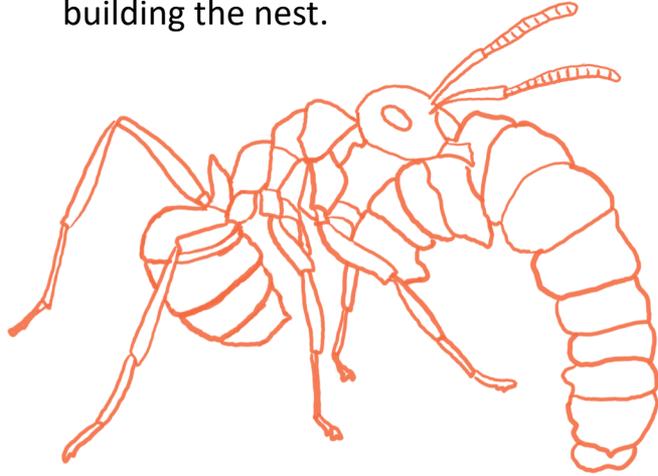


Ant Division of Labor

Social insects, like ants and bees, often produce sterile female workers, which cannot lay eggs. These workers perform several tasks necessary to colony function, such as collecting food and building the nest.



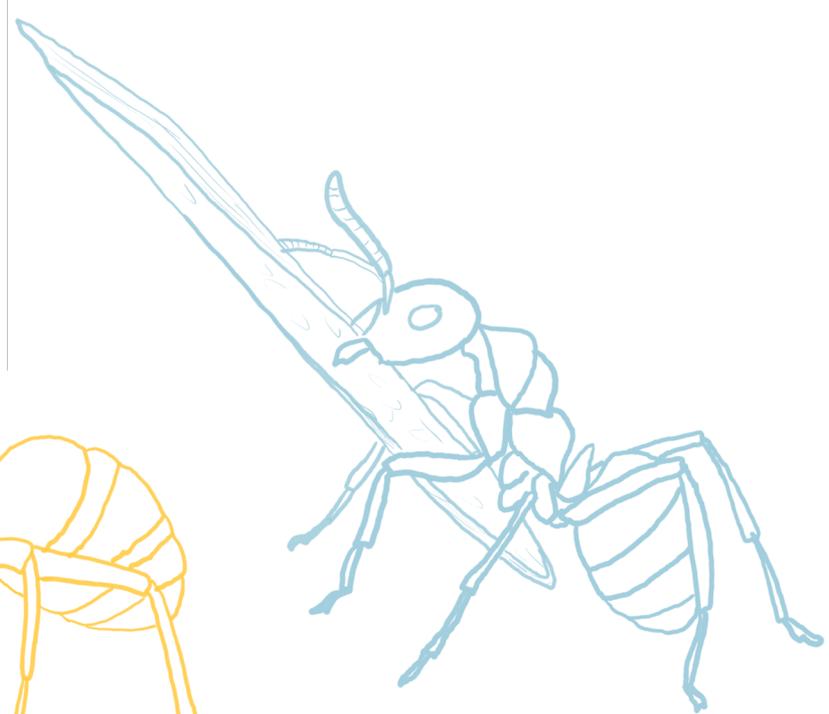
Protein Foragers

- Collect insects and spiders (protein prey).
- Protein prey is fed to developing larvae (ant babies) and queens and is necessary for development and reproduction.



Honeydew Collectors

- Tend to aphids, which produce highly concentrated sugar-water (honeydew).
- Protect aphids from predators, like ladybugs.
- Honeydew provides energy to colony members.
- Ants herd aphids, like farmers herd their cows!



Nest Builders

- Excavate tunnels and cavities within the nest.
- Collect substrate, like pine needles, wood chips, soil, or pebbles to add to the nest.
- Tunnels connect cavities, where brood and foods are stored.