and the effect seems worthy of comparison with that previously described. Conditions under which I was stung were comparable, to the extent that both times I was in good health and accustomed to the stings of numerous kinds of ants.

June 25, 1938, at 2:19 P.M., while excavating the nest of the ant *Sericomyrmex amabalis* Wheeler, I felt a sting comparable to a severe wasp sting on the skin at the junction of the middle and upper third of the left forearm opposite the medial aspect of the biceps muscle. I was wearing a short-sleeved jacket and reflexively brushed the sleeve, whereupon a dealate female *Paraponera clavata* 27 mm. long tumbled to the ground. She had climbed up the sleeve as it momentarily touched the ground and the course of the sting could be followed into the skin as a reddish line 2–3 mm. long on a slight edema resembling that following a mosquito bite. No reaction of the surrounding tissues other than those described above had occurred eight minutes later. At 2:41 an urticarial-like lesion with a central edematous area 2 mm. in diameter and an erythematous halo approximately 40–50 mm. in diameter had appeared.

There was a dull, burning sensation associated with the lesion. By 5:00 P.M. an oval area fully 150 mm long on the inner surface of the forearm was reddened peripherally. A distinctly yellowish edematous area about 100 mm long occupied the center of the reddened area. The burning sensation continued. No systemic reaction was noticed and there was no evidence of lymphangitis extending toward the axilla nor any tenderness or enlargement of the axillary lymph nodes at any time. At 7:30 the lesion was disappearing, though the burning sensation was still present. No medication was applied to the lesion at any time, except that the customary evening shower with soap was taken just before 5:00 P.M. The next morning the area was slightly reddened but not painful. The process gradually disappeared, leaving the arm completely normal.

The effect of this sting of the Panamanian ant strikingly contrasts with that of the Guianan ant previously described. Both belong to the same species and have not been separated, even as different subspecies or varieties, though numerous specimens from both Central and South America have been examined by myrmecologists. The fact that it was a female and not a worker ant which stung me in Panama means that fully as much, if not more, poison was probably injected. Female ants are larger and commonly the sting is more intense than in workers. She had every opportunity to inject a full dose of poison directly into the flesh, while the Guianan worker stung through heavy khaki cloth and was brushed off almost at the time it started to sting. The Panamanian sting, on the medial surface of the forearm, was in an ideal place to be absorbed quickly into the axillary lymph nodes and produce systemic disturbances, while the Guianan sting was over the patella where the blood supply and drainage would be relatively poor.[4] Yet in the Panamanian sting recovery was complete in a few hours; in the Guianan it took over a week.

This difference in virulence of sting in the same species of ant suggests a physiological difference unaccompanied by obvious morphological characters which seems not to have been recorded among ants or related insects.

NEAL A. WEBER
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA,
GRAND FORKS

is common in the rain forests of this region. Nesting and other habits are essentially similar to those in South America. This species excavates irregular chambers a few centimeters in diameter in the soil at the base of a tree, frequently a buttressed tree. From the nest a soil-covered chimney several centimeters in diameter is usually built to a height of sometimes 10–30 cm. This chimney may be washed down during heavy rains, leaving an opening to the nest occasionally 10 cm in greatest diameter. When their tree is sharply rapped or when the surrounding soil is stamped the ants come "boiling" out and wildly dash about in search for the disturber. Any moving animal in their path is viciously stung. Those ants of a Panamanian nest did not climb trees in their search for a disturber higher than 60 cm, usually about 10 cm. In South America I often found them climbing trees to a height of two meters.

A REVERSED CRYPTOBRANCHUS

A RECENT article in SCIENCE by Helen A. Wragg on a reversed cat leads to this brief report on the same situation in a large female Cryptobranchus. It was discovered this fall during routine laboratory dissections. As far as can be ascertained, the reversal is complete, with stomach and spleen on the animal's right rather than on its left side. The position of the gall bladder and duodenum has shifted to the left. This condition not only shows itself in the digestive tract, but is obvious in the position of the heart within the pericardial sac, and the relation of the portions of the heart to each other. It is reflected again in the distribution of the intestinal blood vessels. The animal was a perfect specimen and all organs were normal in size and appearance.

IRA B. HANSEN
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VEGETATIVE REPRODUCTION OF SQUASH TYPES

VEGETATIVE reproduction of squash types, *Cucurbita* spp., has been developed and is now being used to sup-

[4] This probably accounts for the localized lesion which resulted compared with the severe systemic disturbance produced by stings in other parts of the body in the usual South American case.