

A handful of the proper insecticide worked into the bank adjacent to the tree is an excellent means of preventing injury. Consult the Spray and Dust Schedule of the Better Fruit Program for latest chemical control recommendations.

A dry wood termite, *Neotermes castaneus* (Burm.), was reported as a citrus pest by Thompson (45) in 1933. This termite lives in the trunk, large limbs and roots of mature citrus trees. It has been observed to hollow out roots as much as nine feet away from the crown and to extend these tunnels into all the main limbs (Fig. 62). Roots with diameters of only 3/16 inch have been hollowed out. In one instance a trunk with a 6 1/2-inch diameter had a cavity five inches across. The termites also may eat through roots; these wounds may serve as a source of fungus infection.

Trees affected by this termite often show a general decline. Where the termites have tunneled near the surface of the trunk or limbs, splitting of the bark and gumming will result. A drill hole at this point will show the limb or trunk to be hollow. This type of injury appears to have been more common 20 years ago than at the present time.

ANTS

Numerous species of ants, most commonly associated with insects that secrete honeydew, may be found in citrus groves. However, several species are harmful to trees. Miller (21) listed the following species as being associated with citrus aphids: *Solenopsis geminata* (Fab.), *Camponotus abdominalis floridanus* (Buckley), *Camponotus socius* Roger, and *Dorymyrmex pyramicus* var. *flavus* McCook. DeBach (2) found that the Argentine ant, *Iridomyrmex humilis* Mayr, reduced natural enemies of California red scale in California. No such effect has been demonstrated by ants in Florida.

A leaf cutting ant, *Pogonomyrmex badius* (Latr.), is one of the destructive species, especially on young trees planted on recently cleared land. This ant is medium-sized, dull reddish-brown, and larger than the more common red or black species of ants found in groves. A colony forms a crescent-shaped mound about the entrance of its burrow. The color of the crescent is due to the coloration of the subsoil brought up by the ants. When clay is near the surface, it will be the material from which the crescent is formed. This ant cuts small pieces from the leaves and carries them to its nest. While not particu-