

wone diersoorten worden uitgewerkt. Van verscheidene insecten zijn daar de invloeden van de zoo varieerende Palestijnsche klimaten, van de dagelijksche temperatuurschommelingen, enz., al bety bekend dan van menig gewoon insect uit ons vaderland.

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Amerongen, Rusthuis Charlois, Sept. 1946.

A new Record of Age, reached by Ant-Soldiers

by

A. STÄRCKE.

From the 7 soldiers of *Camponotus piceus* Leach, mentioned already previously in this periodical, there are still five soldiers alive. As they were received from Hungary (J. P. Rössler) in March 1935, partly as imagines, they have now reached the age of at least 11 years, 2 months and some days, which is by far the highest age ever recorded for ant-soldiers or workers, free or in captivity.

During the winters of the first seven years, one part of the nest was heated, the dark chamber being placed on metallgauze above a radiator. During the later waryears, there was no heating available, and temperature at night was often below freezing point, but one half of the nest being wrapped in woollen cloth, the ants generally were not cooled below zero for a time longer than a few hours at max., which did no mortal harm to them. In the heated period, the other half of the nest was kept cool, so that the ants could choose their own preference-temperature (which they very seldom did). Thermotaxis proved weaker than nestodor.

Den Dolder, June 8, 1946.

P.S. The last two soldiers died between Aug. 31st and Sept. 18th, aged at least 11 years, 5 months and some days. They both were large soldier of the original crew.

In *Tabulae Biologicae Periodicae* VI (1936/37) 267 a record of a *Camponotus ligniperda* Latr. worker aged 13 years (C. lign. "♂ bis 13 Jahre") is found. This page is signed by Stitz, but I have not been able to detect the original paper and I suppose some error, the ♀ probably erroneously having been recorded as a ♂, or maybe a typographical error.

Den Dolder, Sept. 21, 1946.

Literature Cited.

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