

Amazon Leafcutter Ants: The First Farmers?

1. How would you describe the daily life of the leafcutter ants?
2. What is the relationship of the leafcutter ants and their "farmed" fungus?
3. How is a fungal crop started in a new nest?
4. How was this determined?
5. Why are there no pests or parasites in the ant colony?
6. What caused the researcher to look further for parasites?
7. What was the original hypothesis formulated by graduate student Cameron Currie?
8. How did he attempt to test his hypothesis?
9. What did Currie find?
10. How did his "discovered" material affect the fungal garden when the ants were removed?
11. How did the ants control the parasitic mold?