

April 11, 2008

Airlan,

On a trip to Costa Rica last week, I got a chance to observe leaf cutter ants for the first time. Since then, I've read a little about them but I've seen no explanation of a behavior I observed. I was at Bananito Lodge, several miles inland from Limon. There were several ant trails, but one crossed a footpath about a yard wide. The path was dirt and small stone. What I saw was that the ants started dropping their leaves on the path (see attached photo) around mid-day. They remained there until later in the day, but by sunset they were all cleaned up. Can you explain what was going on?

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