

**P060**

*Investment vs vulnerability tradeoff during brood transport in Diacamma indicum*

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Animals relocate their dwelling places for various reasons. During colony relocation, unlike any other animal, ants need to transport their brood in addition to the adults from their old nest to their new nest. As almost no information is available on the mechanism of brood transport, we conducted a set of relocation experiments with 50 *Diacamma indicum* colonies. We found that there was a complete overlap between transport of adult and brood and there were no brood transport specialists. An interesting tradeoff exists between vulnerability and investment among the different kinds of brood items. The larvae are more vulnerable and represent smaller investment of the colony while pupa due to their covering is less vulnerable but represents bigger investment of the colony. We examined the preference of individual ants to larva and pupa in choice experiments (n=295) during relocation. This provided us another platform to investigate the solution that these superorganism have evolved to balance an important trade-off in their social life.