

Breast Cancer Roulette

## The Ants

# By Bert Hölldobler and Edward O. Wilson

Ants, though individually insignificant, are among the dominant organisms of the world. In the Amazonian rain forest, for example, one hectare of soil contains more than eight million ants. They make up from 10 to 15 percent of the entire animal biomass in most terrestrial environments, turn more soil than earthworms and play leading roles in the ecology as predators, and scavengers. They are also among the most highly social of all creatures; the study of ants has produced many basic insights into the origins of altruistic behavior, the use of chemicals (pheromones) in communication, the functioning of caste systems and division of

labor and other important phenomena of social organization. This landmark work, the distillation of a lifetime of research by the world's leading myrmecologists, is a thoroughgoing survey of one of the largest and most

diverse groups of animals on the planet.

Hölldobler and Wilson review in exhaustive detail virtually all topics in the anatomy, physiology, social organization, ecology and natural history of ants. Their book illustrates each of the 292 living genera of ants — there are approximately 8,800 known species. *The Ants* is the first full comprehensive treatise on these insects since the beginning of this century. In large format, with almost a thousand line drawings, photographs and paintings, it is one of the most visually rich and all-encompassing views of any group of organisms on earth. It can be used both as an introduction to the subject and as an encyclopedic reference for researchers in entomology, ecology, and sociobiology. — *from the publisher* 

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