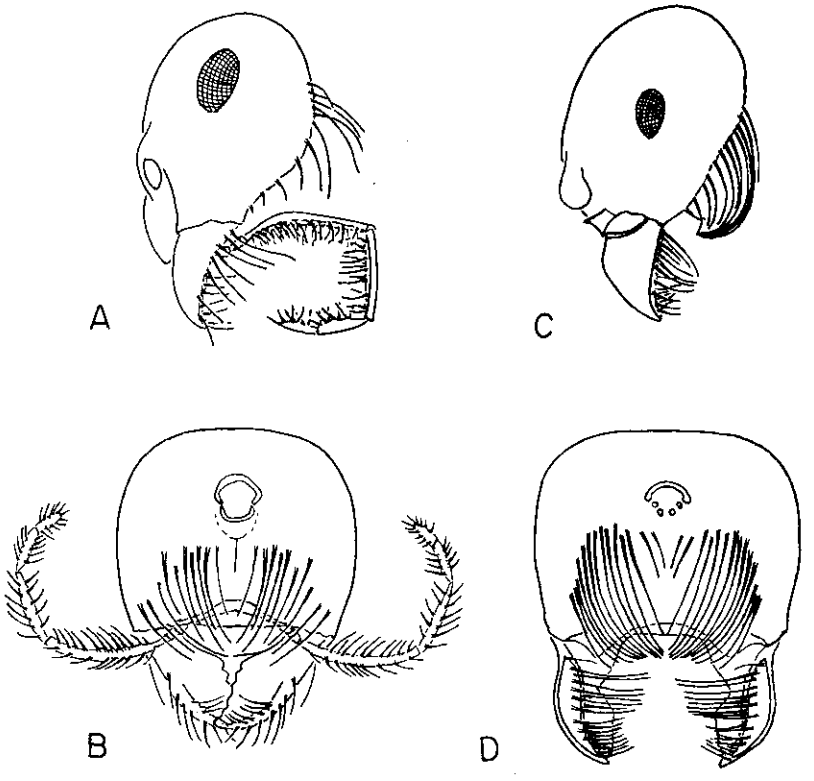
acterizes it neatly (1968: 141): "Le grande imperméabilité du tegument est le seul charactère qui distingue nettement les espèces sahariennes." (The great impermeability of the integument is the only characteristic that clearly distinguishes the Saharan species.)

Besides these pre-adaptations, do ants show any special adaptations to desert life? Yes, a few; the three best known will be discussed in the following sections.

THE PSAMMOPHORE: A STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION

Many desert ants are furnished with elaborate fringes of long hairs on the posterior surface of the head, called ammochaetae (Gr. *ammos* sand + Gr. *chaeta* bristle) or collectively termed the psammophore (Gr. *psammos* sand + Gr. *-phor* carrying). There are four of these fringes in *Pogonomyrmex:* one on the posterolateral edge of each mandible and one on each half of the gula (Fig. 1, C and



1. Drawing of heads to show psammophores in *Myrmecocystus wheeleri* (A, lateral view; B, posterior view) and *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* (C, lateral view; D, posterior view).