Social Organization of Ant.

About 3500 species of ants are known to have societies. They have cast differentiation. Polymorphism is common in ants. Ants societies are basically like a family where queen mother and her female dominant descendants are seen. Offsprings include
(I) Winged worker females
(II) Winged males
(III) Winged females which become virgin Queens.

New colonies are established by males and young queens after their short mating flights. During mating flights, queen carries with her about half a dozen workers clinging to her legs. Workers live for a few years where as males die after their mating flight. A wingless female worker is not fertilized by the male but eggs are laid by them which develop into males. Males are not so much importance to the colony. This shows that evolution of ants has been genetically little affected by the workers presence in the society, the large workers have large heads with enlarged mandibles which are used for fighting. Such workers are known as soldiers which protect the colony from enemies. Some ant soldiers block entrance road of the nest by keeping their heads at the entrance functioning like a bottle plug. Ants are terrestrial in nature.

Ants make underground tunnels with many branching chambers but some ants may occupy rotten wooden logs. The workers of the colony takes care of the brood. Besides this workers maintain proper temperature and humidity in the colony. In ants communicating system is highly developed where brood recognition is done by releasing contacting pheromone by the workers. This pheromone also helps in identifying broods of different castes and sexes. Ants mark scent trails ~~to locate~~ on the ground and other ants are attracted towards this trails to locate the food. The queen ant produces quickly and the larvae live in groups in open chambers and gallery which exhibit trophallaxis phenomenon. Exchange of food occurs between different members of the society. Ant's food consist of microorganisms but in few cases it may be ~~not~~ nectar of flowers or honey dew released from aphids,