



Relationship #18



Pseudomyrmex ants inhabit hollow thorns covering the ant-acacia tree. The acacia tree also produces special nectar vessels and protein-rich food packets for the ants. The nectar can be gathered by the ants at the joint in the stems shown above. The protein food packets can be seen at the tips of the leaves shown above. The ants aggressively defend the acacia tree from attack by other insects or animals through painful bites and stings.

The ants gain shelter and food in this relationship and the acacia tree gains an active defense system.