Manica rubida colonies contain one or a few large, macrogonous queens. Colony foundation is semi-claustral and takes place after a nuptial flight. In the French Alps (Morillon, Haute-Savoie, 700 m a.s.l.), we discovered in 1998 a colony containing many small alate microgonys, which did not engage in a nuptial flight and stayed in the nest for following winter. We found these microgonys in this nest throughout the following years. The size of all the alates indicated a completely separate polymorphism. The microgonys had a normal spermatheca and could be mated, but rarely (1 of 38 cases). They generally behaved like workers in brood care, though they had wings which they lost with time. One of the microgonys presumably tried to found a new colony near the mother colony. In June 2003, we observed a new colony with microgonys 4 km away from the first one. In June 2004, the "mutant" appeared to have spread to the entire valley of 10 km, with colonies having both macrogonys and microgonys, some colonies containing still only macrogonys. The significance of these microgonys is not yet clear, but there are at least two hypotheses for their existence. (1) The microgonys are social parasites of M. rubida. A preliminary phylogenetic analysis indicates that M. rubida microgonys differs from its host with a few base pairs in the mitochondrial genes COI and COII, suggesting that there is some reproductive isolation between the two morphs. (2) The microgonys are part of a dispersal strategy. The small microgonys spread locally from the mother nest, whereas the large macrogonys establish new colonies after a nuptial flight. The presumed dispersal strategy is not totally efficient, however, as the colonies produce many microgonys which stay in the home nest as workers.