

# THE ANTS OF MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA<sup>1</sup>

A. C. COLE

Department of Zoology and Entomology  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Mountain Lake is situated at an elevation of approximately 4,000 feet in Giles County, Virginia. During the summers of 1941, 1942, and 1948, the writer, while he was teaching and doing research at the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia, studied the ants of the area. The following annotated list is the result of the studies:

1. *Stigmatomma pallipes* (Haldeman). Numerous nests were observed under rocks on open pine woods. The species was poorly represented in the moist deciduous woods. Males and females were collected from several nests on August 18, 1948.

2. *Ponera coarctata pennsylvanica* Buckley. A few colonies were found beneath stones in moist deciduous woods.

3. *Ponera trigona* var. *opacior* Forel. Numerous small nests were observed in soil beneath flat stones in rather open pine woods.

4. *Aphaenogaster fulva aquia* (Buckley). Several large colonies were found under stones in rather open deciduous woods. Males and females were observed in nests on August 12, 1948.

5. *Aphaenogaster fulva aquia* var. *picca* Emery. This is one of the most common ants of the moist, dense, deciduous woods. Colonies were well represented, although less abundantly in the more open pine and deciduous woods. Males and females were collected from populous colonies on August 18, 1948.

6. *Crematogaster lineolata* (Say). Large colonies were occasionally found nesting beneath flat stones in drier woods.

7. *Monomorium minimum* (Buckley). This was a rather scarce ant, and relatively few nests were found. Males and females were collected on August 2, 1948.

8. *Solenopsis molesta* (Say). This species was scarce everywhere. A few nests were found beneath stones in the more open areas.

9. *Myrmecina graminicola americana* var. *brevispinosa* Emery. Small colonies were numerous beneath stones in the more open pine and deciduous woods. The ant was poorly represented in dense, moist, deciduous woods. Males and females were in the nests on August 22, 1948.

10. *Leptothorax longispinosus* Roger. Several isolated workers were collected on leaves of shrubs in dense deciduous woods.

11. *Leptothorax curvispinosus* Mayr. Isolated workers were infrequently observed on leaves of shrubs in dense deciduous woods.

12. *Dolichoderus plagiatus* Mayr. Numerous workers were swept from vegetation bordering a cranberry bog, but no nest was found.

13. *Dolichoderus taschenbergi* var. *atterimus* Wheeler. A single nest was found in soil beneath a pile of dry grass in an open deciduous woods.

14. *Tapinoma sessile* (Say). Colonies were quite numerous in the more open stands of conifers and hardwoods but they were scarce or absent in dense woods. Males and females were collected from nests beneath stones on July 31, 1948.

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15. *Brachymyrmex depilis* Emery. This was a common inhabitant of the drier sunny areas where it nested beneath small stones. Males and females were in the nests on July 29, 1948.

16. *Camponotus caryae* (Fitch). Nests were common within trunks and large limbs of standing dead hardwoods which were mined by the ants. Males and females were collected from nests on August 16, 1948.

17. *Camponotus caryae* var. *decipiens* Emery. A few nests were found within dead limbs of standing hardwoods.

18. *Camponotus herculeanus pennsylvanicus* (Degeer). Several colonies were observed nesting in dead underground portions of living hardwoods.

19. *Camponotus herculeanus pennsylvanicus* var. *ferrugineus* (Fabr.). A few workers were occasionally taken in dense deciduous woods, but no nest was found.

20. *Paratrechina parvula* (Mayr). This rather common species was collected from nests beneath stones. It was especially well represented in open woods.

21. *Prenolepis imparis* var. *testacea* Emery. Only one nest of this ant was found. The small colony was in soil beneath the edge of a stone. Males and females were in the nest on August 20, 1948.

22. *Lasius niger alienus* var. *americanus* Emery. Nests were rather numerous beneath stones in the drier and more open areas of both deciduous and coniferous woods. Males and females were collected from nests on August 23, 1948.

23. *Lasius brevicornis* Emery. This species was collected only in open pine woods. Nests were beneath stones in sunny areas.

24. *Formica sanguinea aserva* Forel. This was the most conspicuous ant of the entire area. Its populous colonies were numerous beneath large stones in open woods and along roads. It ensalved *formica fusca* var. *subsericea* Say and slave raids were observed on nearly every clear day. Males and females were collected from nests on August 17, 1942, and females were taken from nests on August 19, 1948.

25. *Formica fusca* var. *subsericea* Say. This was a common ant of open woods and banks of roads. It nested beneath large stones.

26. *Formica pallidefulva nitidiventris* Emery. Only a few nests were found. They were in open areas beneath stones, the edges of which the ants had banked with soil. Males and females were taken from one nest on August 18, 1948.

## NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists was held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, April 14-16. This constituted a joint gathering with affiliated bodies: The Kentucky-Tennessee Branch and Southeastern Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists; Southeastern Section, Botanical Society of America, and the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club. The meeting was by far the largest gathering of biologists representing the Southeast. More than three hundred members and guests were registered, seventeen states were represented, and sixty-six papers were presented during the scientific sessions. Of the papers given, twenty-five were by Tennessee authors. For 1949-1950, the newly elected officers of the Association are: President, Dr. H. M. Phillips, Emory University; President-Elect, Dr. Elon E. Byrd, University of Georgia; Vice-President, Dr. H. B. Sherman, University of Florida; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. A. V. Beatty, Emory University. The new officers of the Southeastern Section, Botanical Society of America, are Dr. Harold C. Bold, Chairman, Vanderbilt University, and Dr. Robert B. Platt, Secretary, Emory University.

The "News Letter" of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies reports numerous activities by members on leave from Tennessee educational institu-

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