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A LIST OF THE ANTS OF TEXAS

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The ants of Texas are of interest to the formicologist for many reasons. Texas contains many tropical and subtropical species that are not found elsewhere in the United States. The magnitude of the state, with its favorable climatic conditions, is responsible for its having at least twenty to twenty-five percent of all the ants of America, north of Mexico. Furthermore, more ants have been described from Texas than from any other state in the Union. Lastly, it was here that Dr. W. M. Wheeler, our international authority on ants, laid down a large part of the cornerstone of North American formicology.

Preceding Wheeler in the study of the ants of Texas was S. B. Buckley, a geologist, who described sixty-seven species of North American ants among which were a number of Texas forms. Most of these ants have escaped recognition by later workers because of the inadequate descriptions of Buckley. Fortunately Wheeler was able to reestablish many of Buckley's species because of his intimate knowledge of the area and of the habits of the ants. For a review of this subject see Wheeler's, A Consideration of S. B. Buckley's "North American Formicidæ." (Trans. Texas Acad. Sci. Vol. 4, pp. 2-15, 1902).

In 1912 J. D. Mitchell and W. D. Pierce published a list of forty-six species of ants occurring in Victoria county (Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington Vol. 14, pp. 67-76). This list although very small is of interest largely because of the excellent observations made by these men on the habits and biology of the ants.

So far as the writer is aware, Texas is the only state that contains representatives of the seven present subfamilies of ants. Texas has also without doubt more *Ponerinae* and *Dorylinae* than any other state. There is though a particular scarcity of forms in the *Dolichoderinae* and *Formicinae*. Of the fifty-eight genera of ants occurring in America, north of Mexico (including imported forms) the state lacks nineteen genera or approximately one