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ON THE COLLECTION OF ANTS MADE BY TITUS
ULKE IN THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH
DAKOTA IN THE EARLY NINETIES

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The history of North American formicology is so little known that the average student is in almost complete ignorance of details pertaining to early collections and collectors, or conditions under which collections were made. This especially applies to a small but important collection made by Titus Ulke in Hill City and vicinity in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The purpose of this article is to make known such facts as are available to the writer.

In 1890 and 1891 Titus Ulke, a mineralogist by profession, was employed by a mining company operating in the vicinity of Hill City. During his leisure time, which was considerable, Ulke collected myrmecophilous beetles for his father, Henry Ulke of Washington, D. C., a distinguished portrait painter by vocation and an eminent coleopterist by avocation. Ulke senior, however, had no connection with the Federal Bureau of Entomology or the Smithsonian Institute, as some individuals possibly think, but he did have a number of friends in these organizations. Among them was Theodore Pergande, who was employed by the Bureau of Entomology to work on miscellaneous insects. Pergande was deeply interested in ants, especially North American forms, and was continually collecting them, receiving specimens from friends and maintaining a private collection in his home. Since North American formicology was still in its infancy, Pergande sent many of his specimens for identification to Mayr, Emery and Forel, the noted European formicologists of that time. It thus came about that Henry Ulke referred to Pergande the ants found by his son, Titus Ulke, in South Dakota. Pergande, in turn, submitted them to Carlo Emery of the University of Bologna, Italy, and they, along with other North American forms assembled by Emery, were treated in his important articles on the ants of our fauna (*Beiträge zur Kenntniss der nordamerikanischen Ameisenfauna*, Zool. Jahrb., Abt. f. System. 7: 633-