from adjacent regions of throax by sutures or impressions. Mesoepinotal suture very distinct dorsally and bearing within this region a pair of rather prominent spiracles. Base of epinotum usually shorter than declivity. Petiolar node usually inclined. Base of gaster with a distinct impression, on each side of which the gaster is more or less angulate (best seen from above). Legs with rather long, suberect to erect hairs. Pubescence on body rather short, closely appressed, and often fairly dense, especially on gaster. Body with scattered, long, coarse, suberecet to erect hairs that vary from light yellowish to dark brown, depending upon the species. Body commonly shiny, often depending upon the light in which the body is viewed. Body color usually yellowish, brown, or blackish.

Biology and Economic Importance

Most of these ants are native species which normally nest outdoors. A few introduced species are capable of living outdoors in the extreme Southern States, but can exist only in greenhouses or heated buildings father north. Our native species, especially, are potential house pests. Workers of most species are mild-mannered, nonagressive, rather active ants, capable of foraging both day and night. Ants of this subgenus form small colonies of only a few hundred individuals in diverse dry-to-moist habitats; they occur in beaches, fields, meadows, and woods. The ants are mainly lowland forms, none of our Eastern States species ranging above 5,000 feet. The ants may nest in the exposed soil, or under the cover of objects, in rotten wood, under the bark of logs and stumps, in twigs, or in plant cavities. No complete biological studies have been made of any of the species. Males and winged females of the native species are known to overwinter in the parental nest and make their nuptial flights the following year. A newly fertilized female is capable of establishing a colony unaided by workers. Workers tend plant lice, mealybugs, and scale insects for honeydew, and also feed on both live and dead insects and the juices of fruits. They feed on a wide variety of household foods such as sweets, pies, fruits, fruit juices, fountain and table syrup, and meats. They are especially fond of sweets, and in some localities have been called "sugar ants" because of their fondness for this food. They may invade houses and stores from outdoors, but also nest within the structures of buildings. They are not capable of causing any appreciable damage to woodwork or masonry because of their small size and small numbers, but they can be very annoying to housekeepers and store owners. Although not numerous in species, the ants are sometimes extremely numerous in colonies and individuals, especially in certain areas. At least one species in this subgenus may possibly be an intermediate host of the poultry tapeworm *Raillietina tetragona* (Molin); workers of an undetermined species have been seen carrying gravid segments of that tapeworm into their nest.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, pp. 374, 390–393; Phillips, 1934, pp. 18–19; Dennis, 1938, pp. 295, 306; Case and Ackert, 1940, pp. 393–395; Cole, 1940, pp. 14–15, 66; Hess, 1958, pp. 54–58, 62–63.