

At Ardmore, Pa., Groskin observed the ants swarming from a colony 18 separate times between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., from June 12 to July 29. On June 12, 13, 15, 23, and 24, five nuptial flights were made. He found that mating can take place on the ground in the vicinity of the nest. Wheeler stated that the female of *interjectus* is capable of founding her colony independently. The female may also establish her colony by becoming a temporary parasite on some other species of ant, most probably a common species of *Lasius*, such as *alienus* or *neoniger*. To my knowledge, no one has yet found a mixed colony of *interjectus* and another host ant. The ants are largely subterranean in habit. Workers do most of the nest building and foraging at night, and are seldom seen above the surface of the soil in the daytime, except near their nest, even during swarming and nuptial flights.

The ants feed almost exclusively on honeydew obtained from subterranean plant lice and mealybugs. They not only tend these insects, but foster them on the roots of wild and domesticated plants. Frequently, *interjectus* nests beneath basement floors, or in and around foundation walls of houses and other buildings. The ants may be objectionable to housekeepers by throwing out earth from cracks in the floor or basement walls, or by giving off numerous winged males and females, which are often mistaken for termites. The swarming of these ants in houses may occur from late fall to early spring, but is especially prevalent from midwinter to early spring. I have no records of workers feeding on household foods; nor do I know of any significant injury to masonry or woodwork of homes or other buildings. On one occasion, workers were reported to have fallen into an open well. The ants are capable of damaging plants by fostering and spreading plant lice and mealybugs that feed on plant roots. Some of the mealybugs and plant lice may spread viruses or other plant diseases, for which the ants may be directly responsible by carrying these insects from one plant to another.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, pp. 373, 397-398; Tanquary, 1911, pp. 294-300; Smith, 1928, pp. 14-18; Groskin, 1947, pp. 67-72; Smith, 1950, pp. 293-294.

Acanthomyops murphyi (Forel)

This native species ranges from Montana to Ontario and south to Colorado and Georgia. According to Wheeler (1917, a), "this form appears to belong to the dryer and warmer portions of the transition zone, and to be rare in all parts of its range."

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *claviger*. *Specific characters:* Workers 3-3.7 mm. long. Distinguished by small size, small eye, which contains approximately 8 ommatidia in its greatest diameter and measures 0.10 mm. here; short scape, apex of which scarcely attains or barely surpasses posterior border of head; slender but subclavate funiculus, all segments of which appear to be as long as broad or longer than broad; thick petiolar node with blunt summit (in profile); and unusually short body hairs, which are especially abundant and noticeable on epinotum and petiole.