

number of Pergande's species have gradually fallen into synonymy. Of the ants which he described that are native to the United States or else occur here, there are now perhaps less than a half-dozen valid species.

In 1900, the distinguished scholar, Dr. W. M. Wheeler, joined Pergande in the field of myrmecology and continued in the field until his death in 1937. The bulk of his work on North American ants was carried out between 1900 and 1917 when he described approximately 270 forms and revised many genera. In his work with North American ants he was in constant correspondence with Pergande who furnished him numerous specimens for study as well as very pertinent notes on their history, and biology.

In summarizing Pergande's contribution to myrmecology I would say that it was not Pergande's taxonomic work on ants or his wide knowledge of them that perhaps distinguished him most but his excellence in collecting and assembling specimens as well as knowing who were the best authorities to aid him in their determination. His aid to Wheeler must have been indispensable. Pergande deserves exceptional praise for his fine collection which was without doubt the earliest, largest, and most authentic ant collection in North America and which later became the nucleus for the present ant collection in the United States National Museum.

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