

THE AMERICAN NATURALIST

VOL. XXXV.

June, 1901.

No. 414.

THE COMPOUND AND MIXED NESTS OF AMERICAN ANTS.¹

WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER.

PART I. OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW GUEST ANT.

OF the many symbiotic relations known to exist between ants and other living organisms, whether animals or plants, few are more interesting than the relations between ants of different species or even genera that live together in the same nests on terms of mutual toleration or intimacy. In this country, nevertheless, studies like those of Forel ('74), Adlerz ('84, '86, '96), and Wasmann ('91) on the compound and mixed nests of European ants have scarcely been undertaken, notwithstanding the fact that our own ant fauna is known to present numerous cases no less remarkable than those which have been so carefully studied abroad. Sufficient evidence of the truth of this remark will be found in the description of a hitherto unknown form of compound nest which is made the basis of the present paper. This is in many respects so unlike any of the recorded compound nests that it seems worth while, if only

¹ *Contributions from the Zoölogical Laboratory of the University of Texas, No. 14.*