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COLLECTION

[Reprinted from BIOLOGICAL BULLETIN, Vol. III., No. 5, October, 1902.]

AN AMERICAN CERAPACHYS, WITH REMARKS ON
THE AFFINITIES OF THE CERAPACHYINÆ.¹

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The singular ant described in the following pages was discovered by Miss Augusta Rucker within the city limits of Austin, Texas, on May 11 of the current year. Impressed by the peculiar, elongate, and segmentally constricted body of the insect, Miss Rucker fortunately secured nearly all the individuals in the nest, including the apterous queen. The most superficial study showed that the insect could belong to none of the described North or South American genera of Formicidæ. A note from Professor Emery, to whom a few of the specimens were sent, and comparison with some rare ants generously sent me by that gentleman and by Dr. Gustav Mayr, made it perfectly evident that the new form must be assigned to the interesting genus *Cerapachys* (subgenus *Parasyrcia*), representatives of which were hitherto known only from the Old World (Africa, Asia and Papuasia).

The *Cerapachys* nest was found about six inches below the surface soil under a layer of large flakes of limestone in the shade of some hackberry trees growing on the banks of Waller Creek. At first only six workers and the queen were taken, but on the following day Miss Rucker and myself succeeded in unearthing four more workers on the same spot. The whole nest could not have contained much more than a dozen specimens. Unfortunately there were no larvæ or pupæ. When first seen the *Cerapachys* were engaged in a battle with some much smaller subterranean ants (*Ponera trigona* var. *opacior*) which seemed to be invading the nest. The new species was slow in its move-

¹ Contributions from the Zoölogical Laboratory of the University of Texas, No. 37.