

Dakota. All the new species described in the present paper belong to the group with 12-jointed antennæ, and it is probable that many more members of this group remain to be discovered in the West and Southwest. Both groups are represented in Mexico and Central America. To judge from Emery's table of the South American species, those with 11-jointed antennæ predominate again south of the Equator. Most of these species, however, whether having 11- or 12-jointed antennæ, have acute, projecting angles to the pronotum, and are therefore consigned to a particular subgenus, *Goniothorax*, by Emery.⁴ The small group comprising the subgenus *Dichothorax* Emery (possibly monotypic) is confined to the Southern United States. This subgenus resembles the subgenus *Temnothorax* Mayr (including only *T. recedens* Nyl.) in many respects. It is interesting to note that this form occurs only in Southern Europe.

While some of the European *Leptothorax* (like *tuborum* and *unifasciatus*) are known to be extremely variable, the North American materials at the disposal of previous writers have not been sufficient to prove the same for any of the species on this side of the Atlantic. Nor am I able to throw as much light as I could wish on the limits of variability in our species, although my material certainly shows that some of our species are decidedly unstable. Such are, e.g., *L. acervorum*, *curvispinosus*, *nitens* and possibly also *Schaumi* and *fortinodis*, especially if the two latter really represent extreme forms of the same species, as seems to be indicated by the existence of intermediate forms.

The genus *Leptothorax* was established by Mayr in 1855,⁵ on a number of species previously included by Nylander and other myrmecologists in the composite genus *Myrmica*, a genus which at one time contained practically all the known ants of the subfamily Myrmicinae. Though some of the characters of *Leptothorax* are not very definite, the genus has nevertheless stood the test of nearly half a century and will probably continue to stand. Like many ant-genera, and genera of other animals also, for that matter, it is recognized not so much by a description of its characters, as by its peculiar and almost unmistakable habitus. He who has had little experience in handling ants will be liable to confound the workers of *Leptothorax* with the workers of *Pheidole* or *vice versa*, but to the experienced eye even the gait of the

⁴ "Studi sulle Formiche della Fauna Neotropica," *Bull. Soc. Ent. Ital. Ann.*, XXVIII, 1896, pp. 26, 27.

⁵ "Formicina Austriaca," *Verh. K. K. zool.-bot. Ver. Wien*, Bd. 5, 1855, pp. 431-433.