

seems to be brought nearer our comprehension, if we consider it in connection with another Formicid with equally unusual females, namely, *Lasius latipes*, recently studied by Mr. J. C. McClendon and myself.¹ This ant has females of two different kinds which occasionally occur in the same colony. One of these is such as we should expect to find after an examination of the females in the other species of the genus *Lasius*. The other is a most unusual form, with greatly dilated legs and peculiar pilosity. The female which conforms most closely to the generic type we have styled the α -, the extreme form the β -female. In Colorado, during the past summer, I happened on what I take to be α -, and β -females of another *Lasius* (*L. niger* var. *neoniger*). In the same colony of this species I found two kinds of females differing greatly in the length of the wings and not connected by intermediate forms. The majority of females had very long wings (9 mm.), but in a number of individuals of the same stature these appendages were so short that their tips did not reach beyond the gaster (5 mm.). The former are probably to be regarded as α -, the latter as β -females. Another American ant, in which the normal female is in all probability a β -form, is *Stenamamma* (*Aphenogaster*) *tennesseense*. This female departs remarkably in its small size, glabrous surface, and peculiar epinotal spines from the females of all the other known species of the genus. Here, as in *Formica ciliata* and *F. microgyna*, we may suppose that the α -form has become extinct, or, at any rate, has not yet been seen. Mr. McClendon and myself preferred to regard the occurrence of α - and β -females in *L. latipes* as a case of dimorphism. This involves no contradiction with the following clearer definition of my views.

Since reading the admirable work of de Vries,² and especially after some correspondence on this matter with my friend, Prof. Carlo Emery of Bologna, I am strongly inclined to see all these cases of dimorphism in the light of the mutation theory. The β -females would then seem to be striking

¹ Dimorphic Queens in an American Ant (*Lasius latipes* Walsh). *Biol. Bull.*, Vol. IV, No. 4, March, 1903, pp. 149-163

² Die Mutationstheorie. Leipzig, Veit & Co. Vol. I, 1901, Vol. II, 1903.