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THE NORTH AMERICAN FORMS OF *LASIUS UMBRATUS* NYLANDER.¹

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Like many other ants that are peculiar to the north temperate zone, *Lasius umbratus* is very widely distributed and presents a number of local subspecies and varieties. In the Old World it ranges from England to Japan, through northern and central Eurasia; in North America from Nova Scotia and the Atlantic States to the Rocky Mountains and will probably be found on the Pacific Coast, at least in the mountains of California or at lower elevations in Washington and Oregon. According to Forel and Emery the species is represented in Europe by four subspecies, namely, the typical *umbratus* Nyl., *mixtus* Nyl., *affinis* Schenk and *bicornis* Förster. To these Ruzsky has added a fifth, *exacutus*, from Oriental Russia. To judge from a female specimen in my collection, the Japanese form is indistinguishable from the typical *umbratus*. Transitional forms which Forel has called *mixto-umbratus* occur in Switzerland, and others which Ruzsky has called *umbrato-affinis* have been taken in eastern Russia. Mayr cited three forms from the United States: *mixtus*, *affinis* and *bicornis*, but Emery has shown that the first of these differs slightly from the European *mixtus* and had been previously described by Walsh as *Formica aphidicola*, and that the last is a distinct subspecies which he has called *minutus*. He was unable to find *affinis* among his American material and I have been equally unsuccessful. This form, therefore, is probably not represented on our continent. More recently

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