

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW FUNGUS-GROWING
ANTS FROM TEXAS, WITH MR. C. G. HARTMAN'S
OBSERVATIONS ON THEIR HABITS.¹

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER,
BOSTON, MASS.

(WITH PLATE VIII.)

During the past summer, Mr. Carl G. Hartman, of Huntsville, Texas, sent me a number of fungus-growing ants whose habits he had been carefully observing. I at first regarded the specimens as representatives of an undescribed species of the subgenus *Trachymyrmex* (genus *Atta*) but on comparing them with a large amount of material from various portions of Texas and of the United States east of the Mississippi River, I find that they represent a couple of undescribed varieties of *T. septentrionalis* MacCook. This comparison also shows that this species is far from being as uniform in its characters as has been hitherto supposed. In my paper on our fungus-growing ants¹ I did, indeed, distinguish a darker southern form of *septentrionalis* from Texas and Florida as distinct from a paler form occurring in New Jersey and the District of Columbia, and regarded the latter as the type of the species. The former was designated as var. *obscurior*. My description of the three phases of the species, however, was drawn from Texas specimens. Renewed study of the materials in my collection together with numerous specimens from several colonies received from Mr. Hartman, leads me to regard *obscurior* as a subspecies, which presents several distinct varieties. I have also found an interesting color variety of the typical *septentrionalis*. The workers and females of these different forms may be described as follows.

1. *Atta* (*Trachymyrmex*) *septentrionalis* MacCook (typical).

Worker.—Length 3–3.5 mm.

Gaster rather globose, with convex sides and faint lateral ridge on the first segment. Surface of body rather smooth, slightly shining; tubercles small and

¹ Contributions from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, No. 50.

¹ The Fungus-growing Ants of North America," Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXIII, 1907, pp. 669–807, 5 pls., 31 text figs.