

NOTES ON A MISTLETOE ANT.

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While collecting in Miller Canyon, in the Huachuca Mts., Arizona, during November, 1910, my attention was attracted by the very large and beautiful masses of mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens* var. *villosum*) growing on the live oaks (*Quercus emoryi*) which in that locality abound at altitudes of 5,000–6,000 feet. I noticed that many of the masses of mistletoe had wilted more or less and had turned yellow. On closer examination I found that their stems at the base, and in many cases for several inches from their point of attachment to the oak branches, had been hollowed out by a beetle larva and that the cavities thus formed were regularly tenanted by colonies of a small black ant (*Cremastogaster arizonensis* Wheeler). The worker of this ant was first described from Tucson, Arizona,¹ where I found it to be not uncommon on the trunks of cotton-woods and mesquites in the valley of the Santa Cruz River. In the Huachucas it was not only living in the hollow stems of every yellow mistletoe which I examined—and I broke open dozens of them from many different oaks—but the walls of the cavity were invariably covered with reddish Coccids, which the ants were busily attending. These Coccids, which Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell has kindly identified for me as *Pseudococcus phoradendri* sp. nov., are in all probability one of the causes of the wilting and dying of the mistletoe.

On consulting the literature I find that a very keen observer, Mr.

¹“The Ants of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona,” Part I, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXIV, 1908, p. 482.