

THE MALE OF *ECITON VAGANS* OLIVIER.

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Only the worker form of *Eciton vagans* is known, although it was first described by Olivier as long ago as 1791 and is one of the most abundant and conspicuous legionary ants of tropical America from Mexico to Southern Brazil. That its female has never been seen is not surprising, because female Ecitons are among the rarest of insects, but it is strange that the male of such a common insect should not have been described as one of the numerous species of *Labidus*, a genus to which all male Ecitons were referred by Latreille, Westwood and other entomologists of the first half of the nineteenth century. The only described male, however, that may prove to belong to *E. vagans*, is *E. dubitatum* Emery (*vide infra*), but this is by no means certain.

November 29, 1911, while collecting ants at La Sabana, a suburb of San José, Costa Rica, I came upon a small army of *E. vagans* rapidly ascending the grassy slope of a ravine. While I was watching the rust-red workers a large chocolate brown male with infuscated wings came marching along in the file, and a few moments later another appeared alternately flitting and walking in the grass about a foot away from its worker companions but moving in the same direction. There could be no doubt that these two insects were accompanying the army and that they belonged to the same species as the workers, because the most careful search revealed no other Ecitons on the whole grassy slope of several acres. Moreover, it was not the regular season for forays of these ants, for I encountered very few species of the genus in Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala during November, December and January. Only *E. cæcum* Latr., which is a subterranean species, seems not to interrupt its forays during these months. I append a description of the two males which I captured.