

a pin with a winged female of *subsericea*, which he had taken July 31 at Westport Factory, Mass., where he had found a large colony of the wasps nesting in a pebbly wood-road. They were bringing in the *subsericea* queens in great numbers and, curiously enough, were themselves being captured and destroyed by large robber-flies (*Deromyia umbrina*).

The queens of the four *Formicæ* enumerated above, differ considerably from one another, those of *subsericea* being much larger than any of the others and those of *nitidiventris* differing greatly in color, as they have the head and thorax red instead of black. The queens of the true *fusca* and *neogagates* are much alike in size and in being very smooth and shining, but the latter species is readily distinguished by the red color of the legs and the erect hairs on the lower surface of the head. It is significant that all these queens belong to species noted for their cowardly disposition, and as the normal hosts of the slave-making ants (*Polyergus lucidus* Mayr and the various subspecies of *Formica sanguinea* Latr.) and of a long series of temporary social parasites (the various subspecies of *F. rufa* L., *truncicola* Nyl., *exsectoides* Forel, etc.). Although nearly all of these predatory and parasitic ants are abundant in the Blue Hills, none of their queens is captured by the *Aphilanthops*. We must assume, therefore, that this wasp has learned to discriminate between different species of *Formica* and to avoid the more vigorous and aggressive queens of the *sanguinea*, *rufa* and *exsecta* groups. The queens of the *microgyna* group, represented in the Blue Hills by *F. difficilis* Emery, are in all probability avoided on account of their diminutive stature.

That the wasps capture the *Formica* queens while they are celebrating their nuptial flight and do not take them from their nests, was clear from observations made July 26, for on that day flights of *subsericea* and *sanguinea* subsp. *rubicunda* Emery were observed in the Blue Hills and the wasps were seen bringing in numbers of the queens of the former variety. Still I did not see the wasps in the act of capturing their prey till August 15, when there was a great flight from all the colonies of *subsericea* in Forest Hills and Jamaica Plain, Boston. While walking along the street I saw an *Aphilanthops* suddenly swoop down onto a queen that had just settled on the ground. Before I could reach the spot the ant had been stung and the wasp