

assigned it. Still the case is interesting if only because it suggests the further question as to whether the ergatomorphic males in the genera above cited may be regarded as originally frontal ergatandromorphs, with worker head and thorax and male gaster, that have become the only males of the species. If this is true, the ergatomorphic males may have arisen by mutation from pathological or teratological forms and have been preserved in certain species in which peculiarities of habit rendered the fecundation of the virgin females in the nest by wingless males more advantageous than the type of mating exhibited by the nuptial flight. A moment's reflection shows that the nuptial flight is a highly advantageous institution in common ants that form large colonies, but must be as decidedly disadvantageous in the case of very small, rare ants whose colonies are very sporadic and comprise only a few individuals. This is actually the condition seen in all the species with ergatomorphic males in the genera *Ponera*, *Cardiocondyla*, *Formicoxenus*, *Symmyrmica* and *Technomyrmex*, and may be supposed, therefore, to account for the substitution of the wingless, ergatomorphic for the normal winged males in these species.

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