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NOTE ON THE HABITS OF LIOMYRMEX.

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER,
Bussey Institution, Harvard University.

The ant genus *Liomyrmex* comprises four described species, *cæcus* F. Smith, *gestroi* Emery, *aurianus* Emery and *carinatus* Stitz, all from New Guinea, except *aurianus*, which has been taken hitherto only on the island of Tenasserim, off the coast of Burmah. *L. carinatus* and *gestroi* are known only from female specimens, the other two species only from workers. The complete absence of eyes in the latter phase and its testaceous coloration show that these ants must be decidedly hypogæic, but no account of their habits has been published.

Recently Prof. C. F. Baker has sent me from Mt. Makiling, on the island of Luzon, Philippines, several worker specimens, which, except in their slightly smaller size, agree perfectly with Emery's description of the Burmese *L. aurianus* (Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, XXVII, 1889, p. 504). Prof. Baker states in his letter that these ants were found in the forest, "abundant with termites—living in the same chambers with these in entire amity." The termites, of which a number were included in the same vial with the *Liomyrmex*, are workers and soldiers of *Termes* (*Macrotermes*) *gilvus* Hagen, which is widely distributed in the East Indies (Singapore, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines, etc.). This must be a formidable species, for the larger soldiers measure nearly 10 mm. and are furnished with acute and powerful jaws.

Prof. Baker's observations leave no doubt that the species of *Liomyrmex* are true termitophiles and suggest that their relations to the termites are more intimate than those of the species of *Carebara*, *Aëromyrma*, *Erebomyrma*, etc., which seem to be thief-ants, living in chambers of their own in the solid masonry of the termitaria and feeding surreptitiously on the termites and their brood.