

## 12. *Solenopsis geminata savissima* F. Smith.

In a recent revision of the *Solenopsis* species of the *geminata* group, Forel has made the important discovery that one of the forms generally attributed to this species lacks the large soldier phase, so that the worker caste is much less polymorphic. This form he originally described as the subsp. *pylades* from a female taken in Mexico, and to it he later referred workers from Colombia, Amazonas, Pará, São Paulo, Argentina, etc. I have recently revised the large amount of *geminata* material in my collection, and, although I am able to recognize most of the forms cited by Forel, I find myself unable to accept his interpretation and the name *pylades*. Forel is undoubtedly right in regarding this as a distinct form, but it is equally certain that it had been previously described by Fred. Smith under the name *savissima*. In the first place, Smith's description is unusually good and applies perfectly to the typical yellow *pylades*. In the second place, his specimens were received from Bates, who gives an interesting account of the habits of this "fire ant" in Brazil. Moreover, Mr. W. M. Mann, who collected extensively in the region where Bates secured his specimens and made his observations, tells me that it is there the only common and widely distributed *Solenopsis*, and the numerous specimens collected by Mr. Mann prove to be typical *pylades* Forel. I believe I am justified, therefore, in resuscitating Smith's *savissima* and in relegating *pylades* to the synonymy, but owing to the existence in the United States of the two following forms, which are clearly intermediate between *savissima* and *geminata*, I am unable to regard the former as anything more than a subspecies of the latter.

## 13. *Solenopsis geminata xyloni* MacCook.

This form is widely distributed in Texas and is probably the same as the ant described by Buckley as *Myrmica sabeana*. The worker measures 2-5.5 mm. in length. The largest specimens are shaped like moderately large *geminata* workers, with rectangular head and the tips of the antennal scapes reaching on the sides of the head half way between the eyes and the posterior corners, but the surface of the head is much smoother and the scattered punctures much smaller, though larger and more conspicuous than in *savissima*. The mandibles are not abruptly curved as in the largest workers of the true *geminata*. The color is variable, being in some of the largest workers deep red, with the posterior half of the gaster black, in others