

A NEW BOG-INHABITING VARIETY OF *FORMICA FUSCA* L.

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Several entomologists have recently called attention to the ants inhabiting peat-bogs in Northern Europe. Nylander, as long ago as 1846, described a peculiar, shining black *Formica* as *F. picea* from Sphagnum bogs in Finland¹ and this species has since been collected in Germany, Denmark, England, Russia and Siberia but has been usually referred to *F. gagates* Latreille, a form described from France. Emery² first definitely recognized the two forms as distinct, though he regarded both as subspecies of *fusca*. He gave the distribution of *gagates* as Southern Europe and Asia Minor and that of *picea* as Northern Europe and Asia as far as China, whence it had been recorded by Forel under the name of *filchneri*. Forel has since described a var. *formosæ* of *picea* from the Island of Formosa.³

In 1913 Donisthorpe found *picea* in England nesting in Sphagnum,⁴ in 1914 Adlerz found it in the same situations in Sweden,⁵ and during the same year and 1915 Bönner published two inter-

¹ Adnotationes in Monographiam Formicarum Borealiæ Europæ, Act. Soc. Sc. Fenicæ, 2, 1846, pp. 875-994 and Additamentum Adnotationum in Monogr. Form. Bor. Eur. *Ibid.*, pp. 1048-1062.

² Beiträge zur Monographie der Formiciden des paläarktischen Faunengebietes, VII, Deutsch Ent. Zeitschr. 1909, pp. 179-204, 16 figs.

³ H. Sauter's Formosa-Ausbeute: Formicidæ II. Arch. f. Naturg. 79, 1913, pp. 183-202.

⁴ Myrmecophilous Notes for 1912. Ent. Record 25, 1913, pp. 61-68, 89-97.

⁵ *Formica fusca picea* Nyl. en Torfmossarnas Myra. Ark. f. Zool. 8, 1914 p. 1.