

esting papers on the habits of *picea* as observed in the Sphagnum bogs near Copenhagen.¹ He describes in detail its small mound nests in the clumps of wet Sphagnum and shows how it hibernates in these nests, which are frozen solid during the winter months. Bönner's observations induced Forel to search for *F. picea* in some peat-bogs near Yvorne, Switzerland, a country from which the ant had not been recorded. He succeeded in finding it, and from a study of his specimens concluded that it is to be regarded as a distinct species.²

The wide distribution of *picea* in boreal Eurasia led me to hope that I might find it or a closely related form in the peat-bogs of New England. I therefore gladly accepted the invitation of Prof. R. T. Fisher, director of the Harvard Forest, to explore with him a large peat-bog at Petersham, Mass. This bog is at an altitude of over 700 feet. Its flora has a pronounced boreal facies as shown by the following lists of plants which were abundant in such portions of it as we could conveniently enter: *Picea mariana* and *canadensis*, *Larix laricina*, *Chamæodaphne calyculata*, *Kalmia angustifolia* and *polifolia*, *Ledum grænländicum*, *Rhododendron canadense* and *Oxycoccus oxycoccus*. I did not find *picea* in this bog but instead a variety of *fusca* L., evidently distinct, of which I had received specimens from Sphagnum bogs in other localities. I had erroneously included this form in *F. fusca* var. *gelida* Wheeler in my recent "Revision of the Genus Formica (Linné) Mayr."³ Only one small colony of the ant was found and this was nesting under a log in damp, peaty soil. On again examining my series of *gelida*, I find that all the specimens cited from Eastern North America, *i. e.*, from Labrador, Quebec, Newfoundland, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and a few specimens mostly taken in Sphagnum bogs in New Hampshire, Maine, Michigan and New York and partly referred to *F. fusca* var. *subænescens* Emery, belong to this distinct unpublished variety which differs from the true var. *gelida* in the pubescence and sculpture of the gaster and the color and sculpture of the thorax. I have seen only worker and female specimens answering to the following description:

¹ *Formica fusca picea* eine Moorameise. Biol. Centralbl. 34, 1915, pp. 59-76, 6 figs. and Die Ueberwinterung von *Formica picea* und andere biologische Beobachtungen. *Ibid.* 35, 1915, pp. 65-77, 1 pl.

² Deux Nouveautés Myrmécologiques, September 1, 1914, 1 p. (author's publication).

³ Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 53, 1913, pp. 379-565, 10 maps.