

mounds are covered with a thin layer of bits of charred wood, dead leaves, twigs and pebbles collected by the ants. The entrance to the nest is a rather small hole, scarcely more than half or three quarters of an inch in diameter and usually situated on one of the slopes near but not at the summit.

Each nest contains about 200 to 500 workers. These are subopaque, rich brownish red in color, with the gaster shining black, and vary considerably in size, from 12 to 28 mm. The females measure 26 to 28 mm., the males 18 to 20 mm. The smallest workers, not exceeding 12 to 15 mm. in length, function as door-keepers and are usually found stationed just within the nest-entrance, with their long, scissor-like mandibles directed outward. When the nest is disturbed these small workers are the first to sally forth, followed by others of the same or medium size, and it is only somewhat later that the huge and formidable individuals, measuring 25 to 28 mm. advance to the attack with wide open jaws and threatening sting. This behavior is the reverse of that observed in other ants (e. g. in species of *Camponotus*, *Colobopsis*, *Atta*, *Pheidole*, etc.), the major workers or soldiers of which act as door-keepers and are among the first to rush to the defence of the colony. Unlike the puny, small-eyed ants of our northern latitudes, the bull-dogs can clearly discern objects at a distance of several feet with their great, prominent, abundantly faceted eyes. They lose no time in running about in all directions hunting for the intruder, but with ferocious unanimity make directly for him. The extraordinary tenacity with which they hold on with their mandibles to any moving object that comes in their path is, of course, responsible for their popular name, but no one has been able to suggest a polite epithet that will do justice to the virulence of their sting.

At the time of my visit to Salisbury Court, during the last week of November, there were no winged males or females in the nests, though there were plenty of larvae and a small number of worker pupae. This is rather surprising because the sexual forms of most of the ants of New South Wales are to be found in the nests during late October and early November. Mr. Froggatt expressed the opinion that the males and females of the various species of *Myrmecia* do not mature till January. This opinion has been confirmed in a letter recently received, in which he describes a remarkable marriage flight of *sanguinea*