

(probably *sanguinea* or *pyriformis*), early in April in South Australia, as "rather a formidable affair, owing to many hundreds of the large creatures (the female above an inch in length while alive) flitting about one's head, all armed with a sting about a quarter of an inch in length, while the shrubs near the nest were covered with scores of pairs and single ones."

The observations of Tepper and Froggatt prove conclusively that the species of the Ponerine genus *Myrmecia* celebrate a regular marriage flight like all the ants of the other taxonomic subfamilies, except the species with wingless males or females, and that these flights occur during January in northern New South Wales or a few months later in the more southern and colder portions of Australia. This season corresponds, of course, to our autumn months, which are likewise the nuptial season of some of our species of *Lasius* (*L. claviger* Roger, *brevicornis* Emery, etc.) We may also infer from the accounts of the two Australian observers that each female *Myrmecia*, after fecundation, loses her wings in the same manner as other ants, except certain parasitic species, enters the ground and establishes a small colony without the assistance of workers of her own species. I am able to show that this is actually the case. On September 19, 1914, I found under a stone in one of the deep sandstone canyons near Katoomba, in the Blue Mts. of New South Wales, a fine dealated female of *Myrmecia tricolor* Mayr occupying a little cavity in the soil and engaged in caring for about a dozen small larvae. This little incipient colony was very similar to those just established by our common carpenter ants (*Camponotus pennsylvanicus* DeGeer and *noveboracensis* Fitch) under the bark of old logs. That the most primitive of existing ants should found their colonies in precisely the same manner as the most highly specialized species, is not without interest.