

have a more meager flora, though sufficiently moist and warm to afford optimum conditions for ants during the summer months.

In addition to a great amount of taxonomic and purely descriptive material Donisthorpe's book contains many original observations on the behavior of ants, especially in the sections devoted to the species of *Lasius* (notably *L. fuliginosus* and *umbratus*) and the blood-red slavemaker (*Formica sanguinea*). The illustrations are excellent and abundant and, with few exceptions, have been specially prepared for the volume. Most interesting are the figures of the gynandromorphs and ergatan-dromorphs of *Formica rufibarbis*, *F. sanguinea* and *Myrmica scabrinodis* (Pl. IV. and Figs. 45 and 46) and of the mrymithogyne of *Lasius flavus* (Fig. 47).

The only matter open to criticism in the volume is, perhaps, Donisthorpe's too hasty adoption of the generic name *Donisthorpea* for *Lasius*. The genus *Lasius* was based by Fabricius in 1804 on *Formica nigra* L., the common garden ant, one of the most abundant insects of the northern hemisphere, and since that date universally known, both in technical and popular literature, as *Lasius niger*. In 1914 Morice and Durrant exhumed a paper by Jurine published in 1801, in which the name *Lasius* was assigned to a genus of bees. The authors therefore renamed the ant-genus *Donisthorpea*. It seems, however, that there is serious doubt concerning the status of Jurine's paper, so that we need not be in a hurry to make this deplorable change in our nomenclature. At any rate, it will probably be difficult to persuade the majority of living myrmecologists, including Forel, Emery and the reviewer, to substitute *Donisthorpea nigra* for *Lasius niger*, a name which for more than a century has been almost as much of a household term as *Musca domestica*, *Equus caballus* and *Canis familiaris*. W. M. WHEELER