

chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), willows, and cottonwoods.

#### MOUNTAIN ANTS OF NEVADA

Because our tentative list of Nevada ants totals 180 species, the list (Table 1) of 50 montane species includes 28 percent of the fauna. But only 30 species are exclusively montane—17 percent of the total, 60 percent of the montane. All 50 montane species occur in the Coniferous Forest Biome. Nineteen of the montane species have been taken in the Ecotone. Five species which have been reported in the Coniferous Forest and in the Alpine have not been taken in the Ecotone, but it is reasonable to assume that they occur here; these would make a hypothetical Ecotone count of 24 species. No species is exclusively Ecotone. Fourteen species have been reported from the Alpine, none of which is exclusive to that biome.

We do not find the ant fauna to be in accord with Billings's subdivisions of the con-

iferous forests of Nevada. Only the Sierran is at all distinctive; six species occur in the Sierra Nevada which occur nowhere else in the state, and conversely there are seven species that do *not* occur in the Sierra, but are found in many other parts of the state. Most of our montane species are too widely distributed to show any pattern.

Montane species limited in Nevada to the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada include *Manica bradleyi*, *Stenamma wheelerorum*, *Camptonotus essigi*, *Formica integroides*, *F. microphthalma*, and *F. siblylla*.

Montane species which have not been recorded in Nevada from the Carson Range include *Myrmica emeryana*, *M. lobifrons*, *Manica hunteri*, *Leptothorax crassipilis*, *Lasius vestitus*, *Formica hewitti*, and *F. subnuda*.

Table 1 shows that our montane ants are a relatively unspecialized lot. *Myrmica* comes first on everybody's list of Myrmicinae and *Manica* is second. *Stenamma* and *Aphaenogaster* are not far above them. But



Fig. 4. Ecotone between Alpine and Coniferous Forest biomes. Open stand of bristlecone pines. Clark County: Charleston Peak, Spring Mountains. Photograph by Gary Nigro.