

what is *Leptothorax* doing here? It is a moderately specialized myrmicine. *Tapinoma* is somewhat specialized, but it is one of the most versatile ants on earth—it deserves its own paragraph (see above). Among the Formicinae *Camponotus*, *Lasius* and *Formica* rate rather low on the scale of specialization in structure, but they rate much higher in behavior, *Formica* being perhaps the most plastic of all ant genera. *Polyergus* is, by contrast, highly specialized as an obligatory slave-maker. Apparently it can adapt to any environment in which it slaves (*Formica* spp.) can function, although we do not yet have it from the Alpine Biome.

The list is interesting not only for what it contains, but also for what it does not con-

tain: the common genera in the lower biomes of Nevada: *Crematogaster*, *Monomorium*, *Solenopsis*, *Iridomyrmex*, and *Conomyrma*; all the harvesters (*Pogonomyrma*, *Veromessor*, and *Pheidole*); and the honey ants (*Myrmecocystus*).

MOUNTAIN ANT NESTS IN NEVADA

Many of our records are based on stray workers only; for these we have no nest data. But those with nests are numerous enough to give a good picture of the nesting habits of Nevada mountain ants. In the following summary we have lumped together the data for all species.

TABLE 1. Mountain Ants of Nevada. A = Alpine; E = Ecotone; C = Coniferous Forest Biome; + = lower biomes (Pinyon-Juniper and/or Cool Desert). We have only one record of a mountain ant from the Hot Desert; even that was riparian.

MYRMICINAE																			
<i>Myrmica</i>										<i>Stenamma</i>									
<i>americana</i>		E	C	+						<i>diecki</i>									C
<i>brevinodis</i>										<i>healthi</i>									C
<i>emeryana</i>		E	C							<i>wheelerorum</i>									C
<i>fratricornis</i>		E	C							<i>Aphaenogaster</i>									
<i>lobifrons</i>		E	C							<i>occidentalis</i>								C	+
<i>tahoensis</i>										<i>Leptothorax</i>									
sp. nov.	A									<i>crassipilis</i>									C
<i>Manica</i>										<i>muscorum</i>		A	E						C
<i>bradleyi</i>										<i>nevadensis</i>		A	E						C
<i>hunteri</i>		E	C							<i>nitens</i>									C
										<i>rugatulus</i>									C
																			+
DOLICHODERINAE																			
<i>Liometopum</i>										<i>Tapinoma</i>									
<i>luctuosum</i>										<i>sessile</i>		A	E					C	+
FORMINCINAE																			
<i>Camponotus</i>										<i>integroides</i>									C
<i>essigi</i>										<i>lasioides</i>		A							C
<i>laevigatus</i>										<i>microphthalma</i>									C
<i>modoc</i>										<i>neurufibarbis</i>		A	E						C
<i>vicinus</i>										<i>nevadensis</i>									C
<i>Lasius</i>										<i>obscuripes</i>		A							C
<i>alienus</i>	A	E								<i>obscuriventris</i>		A							C
<i>flavus</i>										<i>oreas</i>									C
<i>neoniger</i>										<i>planipilis</i>									C
<i>sitkaensis</i>										<i>propinqua</i>									C
<i>vestitus</i>										<i>puberula</i>									C
<i>Formica</i>										<i>sibylla</i>				E					C
<i>argentea</i>	A									<i>subnuda</i>				E					C
<i>dakotensis</i>	A	E								<i>subpolita</i>		A	E						C
<i>densiventris</i>		E								<i>subsericea</i>			E						C
<i>fusca</i>	A	E								<i>Polyergus</i>									
<i>hewitti</i>	A	E								<i>breviceps</i>				E				C	+