

F. Of the variations seen most tended to have the rugosity and colouring of *M. rubra* with the coarse curving epinotal spines of *M. sulcinodis* and the scape rather more curved than is usual with *M. rubra*.

M. sulcinodis is to be found at Stoer, West Sutherland and at Coigach, West Ross, in similar situations at both localities. Nests were found under stones and sometimes in heather tufts on the south-facing slopes of low hills, the nests being situated within the range 400 to 500 feet. However, the species was also noted at Elphin, West Sutherland, in dry heather banks at a somewhat lower altitude. This ant is widely distributed within the British Isles but is by no means common and is one of the most distinctive of our *Myrmica* spp.

M. scabrinodis N. proved to be unexpectedly common in Coigach, West Ross, where colonies were locally abundant at Rieff and in the rough grazing behind Achiltibuie; and it was also taken at Achmelvich, West Sutherland.* This species is also common at Inchbae and Garve, East Ross. Forms darker than the type with scapes more sharply bent than is usual were often seen. A. J. Haddow records the closely related species *M. sabuleti* M. from Canna,⁴ but I have only seen this species at Garve, East Ross,* where a few workers were taken.

At Garve the north banks of the river proved rich in species. *Myrmica lobicornis* N. was found in strength on a stony bank. Both workers and females were distinctly darker than those I have seen from further south. This tendency to darker coloration appeared to be general among the *Myrmica* species of the area. Other records for *lobicornis* in Scotland³ suggest that this ant favours a littoral habitat, not being found on hillsides as is *M. sulcinodis*.

In the same stony bank as the *M. lobicornis*, a nest of *M. schencki* E.* was discovered partly under a stone. This ant is only known locally in the British Isles from West Ireland^{3, 5} and South Wales,^{3, 6} and is new to Scotland. Doubtless further search in the area will reveal more localities. The *M. schencki* workers seen were similar in coloration to the nearby *M. sabuleti*, being redder than those of *M. lobicornis*. They are, however, at once distinguishable from either species by the

* New record for vice-county.