

peculiar formation of the antennal scape, where the transverse ridge is broader than in *M. lobicornis* while both scape and epinotal spines are longer and coarser than in the latter species. In habits these three species resemble *M. scabrinodis*, being less aggressive than *M. sulcinodis* and *M. rubra*.

Among other species noted in the same locality at Garve, East Ross, were *Acanthomyops* (= *Lasius*) *flavus* and *A. niger*. These become common to the east and south of the area. Although Darling⁷ has recorded *A. niger* from Tanera off Coigach, I have not found it on the mainland or anywhere north of Garve.

Leptothorax (*Mychothorax*) *acervorum* F. is also abundant at Garve and has been found widely distributed in West and East Ross and in West Sutherland. This ant has been found nesting in old tree stumps exposed in peat at Achiltibuie, but in this area it is typically found under stones and in the cracks of rock exposures, such as are to be found on the Coigach coast. Winged sexes of this species were seen flying at 1500 feet on Ben More, Coigach, in July 1947, but colonies have not been found higher than about 600 feet which seems to be about the limit for ants in the area.

The plentiful evidence of tree stumps in the peat up to a height of 1000 feet suggests that the region has considerably altered in character within historic times; only in sheltered hollows and in the lee of mountains are any relict woodlands now to be found. Oak and pine, once plentiful, are now rare or absent, and birch, rowan, hazel and alder represent what is left of what must once have been extensive areas of woodland. In several of these predominantly birch thickets in the north-west corner of Ross *Formica rufa* still survives, only however where there is comparative absence of stock-grazing and disturbance. These ants have been observed in the Drumrunie valley, on the south shore of Loch Baddagyle, and in the thickets of Inverpolly. Many of the colonies appear to be surprisingly flourishing. Nests are comprised of birch twigs and are flattened and compact. There is much less free moveable material in the nests than is usual with this species, partly owing to beating down by rain and partly owing to the binding together of nest materials by fungi and