

forming the immediate roof. The artificial nests were set up on the evening of collection (June 10). A few males also developed from the larvae taken with the nests, and these pupated during early August and developed into adults in late August. All the males escaped both nests through cracks during one night in early September, presumably on nuptial flight, since they had not previously attempted to leave the brood chamber which the ants constructed at the end of each nest from small particles of earth that had been scattered over the nest floor. These chambers were an almost exact replica of the ones found under the stones, open at the top and with a small passage at one side.

The queens never left the brood except on the occasion of the introduction of the first grass seed, when all the workers and one queen left the brood and examined the seeds. The queen returned after a brief period and resumed her watch over the brood.

In studying various *Myrmecina* in the Wheeler Collection, I have seen other forms of very doubtful validity. All these are presently considered subspecies of *graminicola*, under which Wheeler placed them in his original descriptions. *Texana* is supposed to differ from *americana* by its "scotch grain" shagreening of the first gastric segment. However, specimens from many localities in the states east of the Mississippi also possess this characteristic to a varying degree, and specimens from North Carolina and northern Ohio show much heavier sculpture of this type than do the *texana* types. The *texana* types, however, do seem to differ slightly from *americana* in having a much less definitely longitudinal orientation to the rugulation of the head, with the longitudinal rugæ having many prominent transverse spurs and branches. Other Texan specimens I have seen all belong to the typical *americana*, including a specimen identified by Wheeler as *texana*. Since sculpture appears to be one of the several very unstable features of Holarctic *Myrmecina*, I believe that further collecting in Texas and Mexico will show that this form is synonymous with *americana*.

Myrmecina americana
 Wheeler Collection
 No. 1000
 1895