

XX. *Revision of an Essay on the British Formicidæ,*
published in the Transactions of the Society. By
FREDERICK SMITH, Esq.

[Read 7th Dec. 1857.]

SINCE the publication of my first "Essay on the British Formicidæ," several additional species have been discovered, and much interesting information obtained; it therefore appeared to me to be desirable that a revised list should be laid before the Society. Two important works on the Ants of Europe have also appeared—first, "The Ants of Austria," by Dr. Mayr: and, subsequently, a "Synopsis of the Ants of France and Algeria," by Dr. Nylander; both these works are of the highest entomological excellence. I have adopted the divisions into which Dr. Mayr has divided the genus *Myrmica*, this will very greatly facilitate the discrimination of the species.

In my former paper I particularly alluded to the fact of various *Coleoptera* being found in the nests of Ants, and I enumerated several species of the genera *Myrmedonia*, *Lomechusa* and *Claviger*; I also recorded the discovery of a specimen of *Batrisus*, which I at that time supposed to be the *Batrisus formicarius*, I have since ascertained that it is the *B. venustus*; since the publication of my observations on these Myrmecophilous Beetles a long list of rarities has appeared.

Mr. Janson has given a powerful stimulus to our researches by his observations and instructions published in the Entomologist's Annual for 1857; his researches however were confined to five species, and there are five times that number of ants in this country, therefore much has yet to be done. I would particularly direct attention to the nests of *F. sanguinea* and *F. cunicularia*: the former is not uncommon at Weybridge and in the neighbourhood of Blackwater, Hants. *F. cunicularia* is to be found on Hampstead Heath and in many places in the neighbourhood of London.

The connection between the Ant and the Beetle still remains a mystery, although I have lost no opportunity of endeavouring to penetrate and unravel the history for some years past, and have