

STUDIES ON CALIFORNIA ANTS. 6. THREE NEW SPECIES
OF *MYRMECOCYSTUS* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

By ROY R. SNELLING¹

ABSTRACT: Three new species of honey ants are herein described from southern California: *M. ewarti* from Shaver's Well, Riverside Co. (*mexicanus* group); *M. creightoni* from Pear-blossom, Los Angeles Co. (*lugubris* group); *M. wheeleri* from Los Angeles Co. (*wheeleri* group). All castes of the three species are described and illustrated.

The following three new species are described in advance of my forthcoming revision of *Myrmecocystus* to provide names for a study to be published by G. C. Wheeler. Detailed distribution data, other than citation of type material are not given. These data will be presented in the revision.

In the interests of conserving space in the description, some features of the head and thorax are indicated by code letters: CI, Cephalic Index—(HW/HL) (100); EL, Eye Length—With the head in full face view, the maximum length of the compound eye; HL, Head Length—With the head in full face view, the anterior clypeal margin and occipital margin on the same plane, the maximum distance between these points along the midline; HW, Head Width—With the head in full face view, the greatest measurable distance between head margins below the eyes (worker and female) or at the level of the upper eye margin (males); IOD, Interocellar Distance—With head in full face view, the maximum distance between the inner margins of the posterior (or lateral) ocelli (Sexual castes only); OD, Ocellar Diameter—The transverse diameter of the anterior (or middle) ocellus, with the head in full face view (Sexual castes only); OMD, Oculo-Mandibular Distance—With the head in full face view, the distance between the lower margin of the eyes and mandibular bases; OOD, Ocellar-Ocular Distance—With the head in full face view, the minimum *horizontal* distance between the posterior ocelli and the inner eye margin (Sexual castes only); PW, Pronotal Width—In dorsal aspect, the greatest width of the pronotum (workers) immediately anterior to the wing bases (sexual castes); SI, Scape Index—(HW/SL) (100); SL, Scape Length—Maximum measurable scape length, excluding basal condyle; WL, Weber's Length—Diagonal length in lateral aspect of thorax, from anterior pronotal margin to posterior margin of propodeum (= epinotum).

Measurements are in millimeters (mm). Each description begins with a series of measurements, indicating the range in the material studied. Each range is followed by a number in parentheses, indicating the measurement for the holotype, thus: HL 0.93-1.23 (1.20) reads [HL = 0.93-1.23 mm (holotype, 1.20 mm)]. The term "propodeum" is used for the posterior portion

¹Entomology Section, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007.