

female paratypes, 6 mi SE of Pearblossom, 3500 ft, Los Angeles Co., 15 August 1965 (R. R. Snelling). Holotype, allotype and most paratypes in LACM; six paratypes in each of the following: AMNH, MNHG, USNM and the collections of A. C. Cole, W. S. Creighton, and G. C. Wheeler.

*Etymology*.—This ant is dedicated to the late William Morton Wheeler, whose career included the first comprehensive study of these remarkable ants.

*Habitat*.—This species occurs from the central San Joaquin Valley (Merced County) southward to San Diego County, in habitats ranging from oak grasslands to juniper-piñon. The workers forage diurnally and frequent blossoms for nectar in addition to being assiduous scavenger-predators of other small insects. Repletes are unknown.

*Discussion*.—This species was erroneously identified by Wheeler (1908, 1912) as *M. melliger semirufus* var. *testaceus* Emery. Emery's species is unrelated and belongs to the *mexicanus* group, where it is a senior synonym of *M. mexicanus mojave* Wheeler (Snelling, 1969). The concolorous orange-ferruginous body of the worker caste is usually sufficient to separate *M. wheeleri* from all other species. Some samples of *M. kennedyi* Cole (= *M. melliger semirufus* of authors, not of Emery; see Snelling, 1969) may have the first two gastric segments orange-ferruginous. These may be separated from *M. wheeleri* by the lack of dense appressed hairs on the third tergite. Minor workers of some populations of *M. wheeleri* from Mojave desert areas of Los Angeles County have the entire gaster, legs and much of the thorax extensively infuscated. The media and large workers are normally colored. These minors may be separated from those of *M. kennedyi* and *M. flaviceps* Wheeler by the combination of densely pubescent third tergite and long, flexuous hairs on the pronotum.

The female is best recognized by the largely orange-ferruginous color and the shape of the penultimate segment of the maxillary palpi. The shape of the male aedeagus is unique and is the best recognition character for this caste.

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FIGURE 3. *Myrmecocystus wheeleri*, new species. A, female, lateral view; Aa, female head, frontal view; Ab, female mesoscutum. B, worker major, lateral view; Ba, worker major, head, frontal view; Bb, worker minor, head, frontal view; Bc, worker petiole, profile and posterior views; Bd, worker, portion of third tergite to show distribution of erect and appressed vestiture. C, male, lateral view; Ca, male head, frontal view; Cb, male mandible; Cc, male ninth sternite; Cd, male volsella, inner view; Ce, male aedeagus, lateral view.