

appear to be removed from the neighbourhood of the centre of the nest to apartments nearer to the exterior, *pupæ* only being found in the latter.

This species of ant is remarkable for forming its nest on the branches of trees and shrubs. The construction is not only singular, but indicative of considerable ingenuity and foresight. The first I met with was near to Pahtun, a Kohlee village on the Goreh river, in the mountain districts of the Poona Collectorate. It was attached to the branches of a large Kurwund\* shrub, and was somewhat globular in form; a second, subsequently met with, was balloon-shaped. They consisted of a multitude of thin folia of *cowdung*, imbricated like tiles upon a house; the folium above all covering the summit in an unbroken sheet, like a skull-cap on a man's head. The folia were put upon one another in a wavy or scolloped manner, so that numerous little arched entrances were left, yet the interior was perfectly weather-proof. A vertical section presented a multitude of irregular cells, formed of the same material as the exterior: near the centre the cells appeared more capacious than near the surface, and a dried leaf or two had been taken advantage of in their formation. The nurseries were in different parts of the habitation; those cells nearest the centre being filled with very minute eggs; those more distant, with the larvæ enlarged; and the remote cells, with the *pupæ* coming into life: the last cells, indeed, had numerous winged ants in them, probably the males of the community. In the first nest examined I did not discover the queen, nor were there any stores of provisions; the insects, therefore, must have relied upon their daily exertions for subsistence. In a second nest, formed on the bough of a large Mango-tree† at Tullyghur, on the table-land of Bhima Shunkur, I was more fortunate in meeting with the queen. She was inclosed in a cell adapted to her size, and evidently could not move, as I was compelled to enlarge the entrance with my penknife to effect her liberation. She was very like a diminutive queen of white ants, and I have little doubt was the common parent of the community. Many of the eggs in this nest were not oblong, but plano-convex, the plane side being fixed to the branch of the tree; they had a gelatine character, and the rudiments of the future insect were observable in them. There was not any store of provisions, and in neither nest did I observe a distinct class of soldiers.

The inhabitants of the first nest occasioned ludicrous distress to the Europeans in my office, the draftsman and clerk. The nest had been obtained late in the evening, and was suspended from the tent-

\* *Carissa Carandos.*

† *Mangifera Indica.*