

pole of the tent in which they slept, preparatory to examination the following day. In the night the men were awakened by repeated punctures and general irritation of the skin, but the darkness prevented them from discovering their tormentors, and they continued to toss and tumble in their beds for some hours in no very complacent state of mind: at last they got up, dressed themselves, and abandoned the tent; but the evil was rather aggravated than abated, as parts of their persons which had previously escaped had now their share of suffering. At daylight they discovered to their consternation that they were covered with minute ants, which had filled their pantaloons, penetrated the sleeves of their coats, and every other part of their habiliments. On inspecting the tent, they found the interior teeming with multitudes of little angry beings, in busy progress, seeking to resent the outrage which had been committed on the community by the removal of their abode.

My account of the natural history of this insect differs from that of the genus in which it is *provisionally* placed. I simply describe what I saw, and may have fallen into error in my deductions. I may have mistaken an extraneous insect for a queen; and I may have mistaken the winged ants for males only, while they really comprised both sexes: I may have made these mistakes; but up to the present moment my original impression remains unimpaired, that the tree ant, in its natural history, approximates rather to the *Termites* and Bees than to the genus *Myrmica*, and ultimately it may be found to be the type of a new genus*.

I had preserved the Queen ant, together with specimens of the neuters and males, in a phial; but not being able at present to find it, after a diligent search, I have every reason to fear it was one of several broken in the voyage from India, and the contents must have been lost.

The drawings were executed under the microscope, from nature, with every possible care.

The specific characters have been chosen from the drawings, assisted by a detailed description of the insect made at the time the drawings were executed.

I need scarcely mention that it is to one of the most distinguished entomologists of modern times that I have taken the liberty to dedicate this insect.

* Smeathman gives four lines comprising a loose mention of *Termes arborum*; and in vol. vi. part 2, page 414, of Shaw, there is an engraving of the queen of this species, from what authority is not stated, resembling my queen of the *Myrmica Kirbii*. It would appear, therefore, as if Smeathman had an impression that the tree ants in their economy resembled *Termes bellicosus*.