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AN UNUSUAL NEST OF POGONOMYRMEX¹

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During 1919 Professor Harlow Shapley, while collecting in the vicinity of Pasadena, California, discovered a nest of *Pogonomyrmex californicus* Buckley in which a large number of the worker-like forms possessed vestiges of wings. Professor Shapley noted this unusual occurrence of workers possessing vestigial wings (1920, 1921) and considered them to be pterergates following the term suggested by Dr. Wheeler (1903). Of 1737 worker-like forms taken from this nest during 1919 and 1920, 740 were found to possess vestigial anterior wings or the stubs of broken fore wings. Four ants were noted which possessed vestiges of both fore and hind wings—"a phenomenon not heretofore recorded, as only anterior wings are represented in all other pterergates." There appeared to be no obvious reason why this particular nest should present such an anomalous condition as the intermittent war with the Argentine ant (*Iridomyrmex humilis* Mayr) which has been introduced there, was no more severe for these ants than those of neighboring colonies of the same species. It was noted, however, that this nest had little access to wild barley and similar grasses which is a common food of the species, yet it was well provisioned with mixed grains from a nearby feed store whenever the Argentine ants permitted the nest to be opened for normal harvesting activities. An examination of several thousand individuals from fifty colonies within a radius of two miles yielded only one pterergate.

While engaged in a study of the Formicoid thorax, Dr. Wheeler suggested that the writer communicate with Professor Shapley and ask permission to examine specimens

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