

[Reprinted from PSYCHE, Vol. XLII, No. 2. (1935)]

THE LARVA OF ALLOMERUS (HYM.: FORMICIDÆ)

BY GEORGE C. WHEELER

University of North Dakota

That the genus *Allomerus* has received scant attention from myrmecologists might be attributed to its restricted range, the paucity of its species, the small size of the workers and the arboreal nesting habits. Nevertheless, my studies on the larvæ would seem to indicate that these ants merit more extensive investigation.

There are only two species in the genus—*decemarticulatus* Mayr and *octoarticulatus* Mayr. The latter has four varieties. In the *Genera Insectorum* (1922) Emery records the geographic distribution of all forms as "Brésil: Amazonas." *A. o.* var. *demeraræ* W. M. Wheeler (1929), however, occurs in British Guiana. The minute yellow workers and their much larger sexual forms inhabit natural cavities in swellings of plants in tropical rain forests. The most complete account of the habits of *Allomerus* is given by Dr. W. M. Wheeler in the *Transactions of the Fourth International Congress of Entomology* (1929, p. 343).

The larvæ of *Allomerus* unique in two characteristics—body hairs and sexual differentiation. The flattened, angulate body hairs of the worker and young sexual larvæ and the enormous, rigid, serrate ventral hairs of the mature sexual forms are peculiar to this genus. As a rule, the larvæ of the sexual forms of ants are differentiated from those of their workers chiefly by size. In *Allomerus*, however, they differ in size, shape and hairs, and these differences are so great that the two types might be regarded as generically distinct, were it not for the similarity of the heads.

*Allomerus octoarticulatus* Mayr. var. *demeraræ* W. M. Wheeler.

YOUNG WORKER LARVA (Pl. VII, Fig. 2): Similar to mature worker larva but more slender.