

## THE LARVAE OF THE ARMY ANTS

GEORGE C. WHEELER,  
University of North Dakota

Army ants are among the most notorious insects of the tropics. They have been written about by travelers and studied by entomologists for more than a century. But their larvae, by contrast, are seldom seen and have received comparatively scant attention even from myrmecologists.

Army ants belong to the Subfamily Dorylinae. The most conspicuous genera are Dorylus in the Old World tropics and Eciton in the Neotropical and southern Nearctic Realms. Less common is the Old World Aenictus. Cheliomyrmex is found only in the warmest parts of the Neotropical and is only locally abundant. The African Aenictogiton is known only from males. The genus Leptanilloides is known only from a few workers of the type species collected in Bolivia and its position in the Dorylinae is uncertain. Leptanilla, formerly regarded as a doryline, is now placed in a separate subfamily.

In this paper the larvae of thirteen species in four genera have been described. In addition I have included all the references to doryline larvae that I have been able to find in the literature.

### Subfamily **Dorylinae** Leach

Larvae elongate, slender, subcylindrical; with a slight progressive attenuation toward the anterior end; nearly straight but with the anterior end slightly curved ventrally; orthocephalic.<sup>1</sup> Twelve or thirteen distinct somites. Spiracles minute. Vestigial legs relatively large and conspicuous. Hairs short; sparse to moderately abundant; mostly simple (but branched or plumose in *Acamatus*). Head large, with short simple hairs. Antennae with two sensilla each. Mandibles poorly developed; of two types—elongate, slender, slightly curved and denticulate, or short, small, acuminate and feebly sclerotized. Maxillary palps wanting or represented by a more or less elevated group of sensilla. Trophorhinium<sup>2</sup> poorly developed or absent.

Wheeler (1922, p. 39) describes the larvae of the Dorylinae as "more or less cylindrical, with short hairs, without hooked setae; mandibles small, slender, falcate." Forel, 1928, Vol. I, p. 131 = 1921, Tome I, p. 136: "More or less cylindrical, with short hairs and no hooked hairs" ("plus ou moins cylindriques, à poils courts, sans poils d'accrochage").

Emery (1904, p. 115) describes the doryline type as having a "forma sottile, quasi cilindrica."

Gallardo, 1920, p. 309: "Larvas más o menos cilíndricas, con pelos cortos, sin pelos para engancharse."

<sup>1</sup>*Orthocephalic*, having the head at the anterior end of the body, in contrast with *hypocephalic*, having the head apparently on the ventral surface near the anterior end.

<sup>2</sup>*Trophorhinium*, a term applied by Wheeler (1920, p. ~~257~~<sup>48</sup>) to the aggregate of roughened surfaces of the mouth parts which might be used in triturating food.