

# The Ant Larvae of the Subfamily Ponerinae —

## Part I<sup>1</sup>

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Tribe MYRMECINI Emery

Genus MYRMECIA Fabricius

Not differentiated into neck and body; elongate, terete and rather slender; diameter diminishing gradually from the fifth abdominal somite to the anterior end; anterior half strongly curved. Body hairs short, simply, slightly curved. Head very small; cranium subcircular in anterior view. Head hairs very few, simple, minute, irregularly scattered. Labrum small and short; posterior surface with spinules of various sizes irregularly arranged and with sensilla of various sizes not clustered near the middle. Mandibles stout and subtriangular; heavily sclerotized; arcuate posteriorly with coarse spinules (not in rows) on the basal half and longitudinal striae on the apical half; apical tooth stout and straight. Galea a truncate cone. Labial palp a low rounded elevation.

Clark, 1925, p. 60: "Although the adult Bull-ant is really a honey-eater, the larvae must have an insect diet or they will eat one another when close together." (Quoted by Wheeler, 1933, p. 22.)

Girault (1915, p. 236) recorded the eucharid *Chalcuroides versicolor* Girault as "parasitic on *Myrmecia* sp." Presumably the larva was parasitoid on the ant larva.

Wheeler, 1910, p. 233: "Smooth, slender larvae, with a rather dense covering of hairs."

*Myrmecia gulosa* Fabricius.—Plate I, figs. 1-7. Elongate, terete and rather slender. Posterior half definitely the stouter, slightly curved ventrally. Anterior half slender and strongly curved ventrally. Diameter greatest at the fifth and sixth abdominal somites; gradually diminishing forward. Posterior end rounded. Anus subterminal. Leg vestiges moderately large. Segmentation distinct; 10 somites differentiated. Body hairs simple, slightly curved, relatively short (0.06-0.2 mm), uniformly distributed and moderately abundant. Integument spinulose on the ventral surface of pro- and mesothorax. Head very small, subpyriform in anterior view; cranium subcircular, with numerous minute sensilla irregularly scattered over the surface. Head hairs very few, minute (0.03 mm long) and scattered. Antennae mounted on low bulges; small, with three sensilla each. Labrum small and short; breadth twice the length; strongly bilobed due to a wide median incision of the free edge; anterior surface with a few sensilla; posterior surface with several sensilla and

<sup>1</sup> Discussion, key and bibliography will follow at the end of Part II.