

shape. We later (1964) applied the same reasoning and techniques to the larvae of the Ponerinae, which then included *Myrmecia*.

The larva of *Myrmecia* has a myrmeciiform profile, which was figured and described (1964: 458) thus: "Not differentiated into neck and body; elongate and rather slender; diameter diminishing gradually from the fifth abdominal somite to the anterior end; anterior half strongly curved." It is refigured here (Fig. 10). The mandible shape which is also termed myrmeciiform is revised to read thus: "Subtriangular in anterior view; straight and stout; without a medial blade; with one apical tooth and two subapical medial teeth" (Fig. 11). As the term myrmeciiform suggests, the profile and mandible shape are both distinctive for this genus.

We have selected the myrmeciiform profile as the least specialized among known ant larvae, because (1) *Myrmecia* has generally been considered one of the least specialized genera of ants; (2) among the larvae of this genus no character shows an extreme deviation from the average for all known ant larvae; (3) no character shows adaptation to any limited function or habit; (4) among the larvae of *Myrmecia* the majority of characters are only moderately developed in contrast to the extremes of the same characters in the family.

We believe that the larvae of *Myrmecia* are unspecialized in the following characters: body shape; body hairs; head hairs; size, shape and position of antennae; size and shape of labrum; mandible shape; maxillary palps paxilliform; galeae digitiform; labial palps low rounded elevations; opening of sericteries wide and salient; hypopharynx without spinules; spinules on other mouth parts few, coarse and isolated.

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