

## Notes on Ant Larvae

GEORGE C. WHEELER AND JEANETTE WHEELER  
*Research Associates, Florida State Collection of Arthropods<sup>1</sup>*

### ABSTRACT

The larvae of ten additional species are described, including all instars of *Neivamyrmex opacithorax*; the others are in the genera *Aenictus*, *Pseudomyrmex*, *Iridomyrmex* and *Tech-nomyrmex*. Forty references to ant larvae in the literature are cited and several are discussed. Changes in our "Ant Larvae: Review and Synthesis" (1976) and its "Ten-Year Supplement," (1986) which result from our publications in 1987 and 1988, are indicated.

In 1976 we published "Ant Larvae: Review and Synthesis," which we regarded as a summary of our life-time of research. During the following years so many new larvae were added to our collection and so much was published about ant larvae that we decided another general treatment was desirable. So in 1986 we published a "Supplement" to include additions and corrections for our 1976 "Memoir." In the past two years we have described 2 additional genera and 14 additional species and references noted in the literature have increased by 40. Hence this article may be considered as a sort of supplement to the supplement.

### MYRMECIINAE

#### Genus *Myrmecia* Fabricius

Wilson 1971:38. In a table of "Behavior and other Traits of *Myrmecia*/Primitive traits." "3. The larvae are fed directly with fresh insect fragments. 4. The larvae are able to crawl short distances unaided." Under advanced traits: "Regurgitation occurs both among adults and between adults and larvae."

#### *Myrmecia gulosa* Fabricius

Sisson 1974. Photographs in color of the anterior end of a larva; of the anterior end of a larva being fed an egg by a worker; of a larva being prepared by a worker for spinning a cocoon.

Wilson 1971:39. A diagrammatic view of the inside of the earthen nest of a colony; larvae are shown.

#### *Myrmecia pilosula* (F. Smith)

Crossland 1988:483. "Early stages of gregarine spores have been found in the gut wall of field-collected larvae." Heavily infested workers are brown instead of the normal black.

<sup>1</sup>George C. Wheeler and Jeanette Wheeler, 3358 NE 58th Avenue, Silver Springs, Florida 32688