

the eyes, but differing from this and the other forms of *mexicanus* in having the neck much shorter, so that the pronotum, seen from above, is as broad as long. Hairs and pubescence white, more abundant than in *horti-deorum* and *mexicanus*. Color pale sordid yellow, with the posterior portion of the head brown and the legs and antennæ whitish.

California: Ontario (J. C. Bradley).

Described from two dozen specimens, some of which are in a partially replete condition, with the ingluvies full of honey dew.

## PART II. ETHOLOGICAL NOTES AND DESCRIPTIONS.

### 1. The Typical Mexican Forms of *Myrmecocystus*.

The early accounts of the habits of *Myrmecocystus* in the papers of Llave, Wesmael and Lucas are based on hearsay, as none of these authors saw living specimens. That these accounts refer, perhaps, to two different species is of no great moment, since they are couched in very general terms.

In addition to some notes on a few alcoholic specimens, Llave gives the following description of the habits of his *Formica melligera*: "A careful observer, who lives in the town of Dolores, in the vicinity of which the formicaries are found, told me that, out of curiosity, he had excavated some of the nests belonging to the ants which the peasants call *busileras*. He assured me that the inhabitants of these nests are a species of small ant which does not make an earthen mound at the entrance of its dwelling, and that in following the excavations and removing the earth, one comes upon a kind of gallery from the ceiling of which the *busileras* hang suspended and huddled together, covering both the roof and the walls of the gallery. He told me also that the peasant women and children are well acquainted with these nests, that they seek them assiduously for the purpose of obtaining the honey and that when they are going to make a present of them, they take hold of them very cautiously, carefully remove the head and thorax and then place them in a dish; but if the insects are to be eaten as soon as found, the saccharine portion is sucked out and the remainder thrown away. The head and thorax are removed, I was told, to prevent the ants from injuring one another, for although they are unable to walk, owing to the prodigious volume of the abdomen, they nevertheless struggle when placed in a dish, and catch hold of and rupture one another, so that in the end they become flaccid and depleted. Indeed, the skin which unites the segments of the abdomen is so delicate and especially so distended, on account of the enormous quantity of honey which it contains, that the least puncture causes the