

of their food. On one occasion, while watching a nest, I saw many of the workers returning with male and female termites that had been captured just after their nuptial flight. Others were bringing in dead harvesting ants (*Pogonomyrmex*). In some of the nests whole chambers were set aside as kitchen middens and were filled with the remains of a great variety of insects. I am convinced, therefore, that *M. orbiceps* is a highly predaceous and carnivorous ant like the various palearctic *Myrmecocysti* described by Forel (1890 a and b, 1895), Lameere (1902) and Escherich (1902).

3. *Myrmecocystus melliger mendax* subsp. nov.

This subspecies closely resembles the preceding both in its appearance and in its nesting habits, but has a more northerly distribution. I have seen it only in Colorado. During the summer of 1903 I found a single colony near Colorado City, a second much more flourishing colony near Mount Washington, south of Colorado Springs, and in 1906 a third was found nesting between the cracks of a stone sidewalk in Denver. This is the northernmost point to which any of our *Myrmecocysti* have been traced.

I came upon the Mount Washington colony July 18 at 4.10 P. M. soon after a shower and just as the sun emerged from a bank of clouds. The males and females were issuing for their marriage flight from a nest which was in coarse pebbly soil around the roots of a cactus. I should not have found the colony had not my attention been attracted by the throng of feverish workers surrounding the entrance whence the sexual forms were issuing. There was nothing unusual about the flight: the males and females climbed about on the pebbles and plants with quivering wings and antennæ and rose into the air one by one. As it was late in the afternoon, the nest was marked for excavation on the following day and I walked towards the town. I had gone less than a quarter of a mile when I found several females that had already descended from their flight, removed their wings and were running over the ground in search of a place in which to establish their formicaries. On the following day the nest was excavated with great care in the hope that it might contain repletes, but I was disappointed. Remains of insects in some of the chambers showed that this subspecies, like *orbiceps*, is carnivorous. The nest still contained several males and deâlated females which had either returned voluntarily after the marriage flight on the previous day or had not participated in it.

The var. *comatus*, which is merely a more hairy form of *mendax*, was observed only in Hospital Cañon at Fort Davis, Texas. Some of the nests were near oak trees (*Quercus cinerea*), which the ants were ascending, apparently for the purpose of visiting aphids on the foliage, but none of the