

returning individuals had their gasters enlarged and I was unable to find repletes in any of the nests. Some of the nests, however, had large kitchen middens of insect fragments near their entrances, showing that this ant is predatory like *orbiceps* and the typical *mendax*. The absence of repletes in this instance did not surprise me because some nine months of rainless weather had preceded my visit to Fort Davis, a period more than sufficient to exhaust any store of honey that might have been collected during the previous year.

4. ***Myrmecocystus melliger mimicus*** subsp. nov.

This is the most abundant and widely distributed form of the genus from Trans Pecos Texas to the Mojave Desert and probably throughout Chihuahua and Sonora. It prefers the pebbly or pure adobe soil of the more arid deserts (Fig. 12). Here it constructs rather regular craters 10–15



Fig. 14. Nest crater of *Myrmecocystus melliger semirufus* Emery. Needles, California. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  natural size.

cm. across at the base and 3–4 cm. high, with a circular opening varying from 1.5–2 cm. in diameter (Fig. 13). I have carefully excavated a great number of colonies of *mimicus* and its var. *jesuita*, in widely separated localities but have never been able to observe in the workers the slightest