tendency to develop repletes. The ants live in such arid and barren places that it is difficult to understand how they can obtain sufficient moisture for their daily needs, to say nothing of storing it up for future consumption. The workers are diurnal like those of the preceding subspecies and varieties and prey upon insects.

5. **Myrmecocystus melliger semirufus** *Emery.*

This is a very distinct form characterized by the small size and feeble polymorphism of its workers, and occurs only in the pure sand of the river-bottoms and gullies in the deserts. It is not uncommon along the Gila River near Phoenix, Arizona and the Colorado River near Needles, California. Its craters (Figs. 14 and 15) are somewhat larger and more regular

Fig. 15. Nest crater of *Myrmecocystus melliger semirufus* Emery, under all-thorn (*Kœberlinia*) bush. Mojave Desert, California. About $\frac{1}{6}$ natural size.

than those constructed by *Lasius americanus* in warm, sandy places in the Eastern States. At Needles the workers were found attending peculiar coccids (*Orthezia*) which were feeding on some small desert shrubs. This would point to the existence of repletes in the nest, but although I excavated a number of these, a task that was greatly facilitated by the loose consistency