

is therefore nothing to indicate that Krummeck made any observations of his own on the development of the repletes of *M. horti-deorum*.

We see how Baron de Normann's supposition that the repletes produce honey continued to influence the thoughts of succeeding writers. Capt. Fleeson improvised the gossamer receptacles and both he and Krummeck were of the opinion that the ants used their stomachs as a kind of distillery for making honey out of flowers and leaves. In commenting on Fleeson's vagaries McCook says: "One can hardly refrain from the thought that



Fig. 19. Nest crater of *Myrmecocystus horti-deorum* built at edge of stone. Red Rock Cañon, Colorado. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  natural size.

Capt. Fleeson was testing the credulity of the writer by one of those jokes of which naturalists are occasionally the victims. But, if the narrative is to be taken in good faith, I can only explain the facts by supposing, first, that the observer happened upon a nest of cutting ants (*Atta fervens*), within whose boundaries a nest of *Melliger* had chanced to be established, and had confounded the habits of the two as those of one formicary; or, second, that the cutting-ant, or some other species of similar economy, has really acquired the habit of kidnapping and domesticating the honey ant for the