

7. *Myrmecocystus mexicanus navajo* subsp. nov.

This subspecies bears somewhat the same relation to *M. horti-deorum* that *semirufus* does to *melliger*, that is, it is a small, pale, depauperate form. I found its nests to be rather common, though widely scattered, in the desert south of Albuquerque, New Mexico (Fig. 24). A few were seen even in the streets of the town. They are, however, so very inconspicuous that my

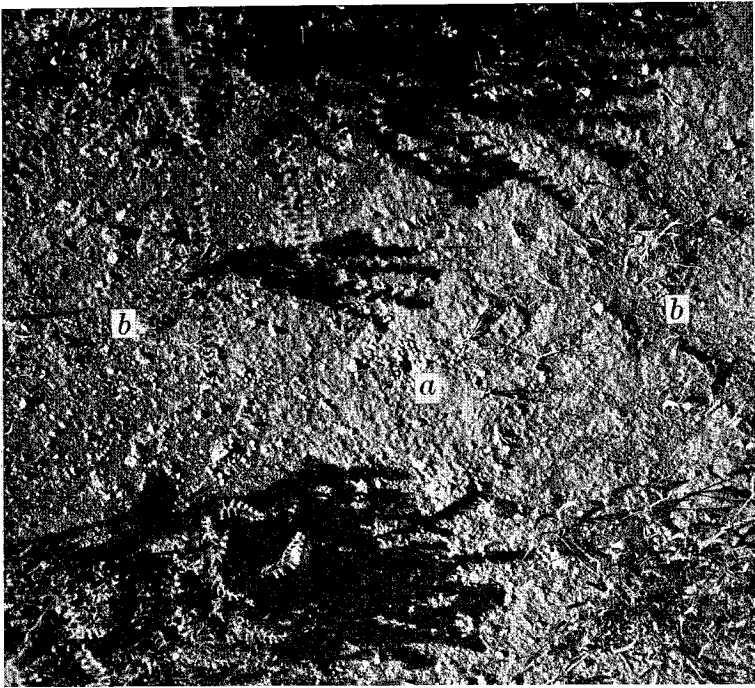


Fig. 25. Nest of *Myrmecocystus mexicanus navajo* subsp. nov. near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Entrance in middle of figure, at *a*; vestiges of crater shown as fine granulations at *b*. About $\frac{1}{3}$ natural size.

finding them was the merest accident. The entrance (Fig. 25*a*) is very small, not more than .5–1 cm. in diameter and is not surrounded by a conical crater as in nearly all the other American *Myrmecocysti*. A vestige of this structure may nevertheless be said to be present, for a very thin layer of small pellets of earth is scattered by the ants over a circular area, 30–60 cm. in diameter, around the entrance (Fig. 25*b*). Immediately encircling the entrance, however, there is a zone free from pellets.

I excavated twenty-two of these nests and found their internal structure