

very frequently nest under stones. In none of these species, however, are the repletes as numerous or as much distended as those of *imparis*. All of our species of *Prenolepis sensu lato* are peculiar in that the males and winged females which mature during late summer or early autumn, pass the winter in the maternal nests and celebrate their nuptial flight early in the following spring. It is probable that this hibernation of the virgin sexual forms is rendered possible, or at any rate facilitated, by the ability of the workers to store up liquid food, although in this respect they are very inferior to *Myrmecocystus*. This ability to store food may also account for the large size of the queens of *Prenolepis*, and especially of *Nylanderia*, as compared with the workers.

Our tiny *Brachymyrmex heeri depilis* Emery has habits very similar to those of certain *Prenolepis*. It lives a subterranean life under stones, cultivating root-coccids. The typical West Indian form of the species has been imported into Europe with tropical plants, and was first observed by Forel in the hot-houses of Switzerland. He says of this ant (1895): "I have observed specimens of *Brachymyrmex heeri* Forel with the gaster enormously distended with honey, but nevertheless running on the plants outside the nest; they had merely gorged themselves with the honey-dew of coccids and were returning home."

## 2. *Melophorus bagoti* Lubbock.

The Australian genus *Melophorus* is so closely related to *Myrmecocystus* that one of its species, *M. æneovirens* was long considered to belong to this genus. That *Melophorus* is also fond of living in arid regions is shown by the remarkable development of the ammochætæ or long circumoral bristles used in cleaning the fore legs and strigils. As I have shown in a former paper (1907a), all the series of these hairs (clypeal, mandibular, mental and gular) are present in *Melophorus*. In the New World *Myrmecocysti*, however, there are none on the mentum and in the Old World species there is a tuft on the mentum but none on the gula.

The genus *Melophorus* was based by Lubbock on *M. bagoti* in 1884. The types came from Central or Western Australia ("21° S. Lat."). Lubbock transposed the generic and specific diagnoses that had been written out for him by Forel, but the latter rectified the blunder a few years later (1886). *M. bagoti* is of a rich ferruginous red color and has polymorphic workers. The length of the smaller ones has not been recorded but that of the larger is 13-16 mm. In the latter the gaster is distended somewhat as in the *Nylanderia* repletes, and, as Forel has stated, is far from attaining the