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A NEW PAPER-MAKING CREMATOGASTER FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES.¹

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More than thirty years ago the late Prof. George F. Atkinson described and figured a large, elongate elliptical paper nest which he took to be the work of our common acrobat ant, *Crematogaster lineolata* Say.² The structure, "about eighteen inches long by twelve inches in circumference at greatest diameter" was discovered by H. A. Brown in the marshes bordering Broad Creek, Hyde County, N. C., and was "built several feet from the ground on a bush." The material was "of a light gray color, much like that of the nest of the white-faced hornet," but was darker internally, almost black in some places. Atkinson believed that the *Crematogaster*, instead of building in its usual manner under stones or logs, where it not infrequently covers the walls of its chambers with a variable amount of dark-colored carton, had adopted the arboreal habit as a "singular adaptation" to living in a swamp. As I saw no reason to question the correctness of his identification of the ant, I have on two or three occasions expressed the same opinion.³

About a year ago Dr. E. F. Bigelow sent me a photograph and fragments of a large paper nest found by Mr. J. Willis Youngs at Fort Myers, Fla., together with some of the ants that had constructed it. Dr. Bigelow subsequently published the photograph with a few notes.⁴ The nest as shown in the photograph is much damaged but must have been originally more than a foot in length. A study of the ants shows that they represent an undescribed species, closely related to *C. lineolata* but easily recognizable as distinct. I feel reasonably certain from an examination of the carton and a comparison of Atkinson's and Bigelow's figures that both nests were built by the same species of ant.

Very recently Dr. W. M. Mann sent me specimens of the same

¹ Contribution from the Entomological Laboratory of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University. No. 157.

² Singular Adaptation in Nest-making by an Ant, *Crematogaster lineolata* Say. *Amer. Natural.* 21, 1887, pp. 770-771, Pl. 26.

³ The Habits of the Tent-building Ant (*Crematogaster lineolata* Say). *Bull. American Mus. Nat. Hist.* 22, 1906, p. 15; Vestigial Instincts in Insects and other Animals. *Amer. Journ. Psychol.* 19, 1908, p. 4.

⁴ A Very Interesting Study of Ants. *Guide to Nature* 11, March 1919, p. 270.