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A NEW PARASITIC CREMATOGASTER
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For many years I have suspected that some of the species of the huge, cosmopolitan ant-genus *Crematogaster* might prove to be social parasites. My grounds for this suspicion were the fact that one common Neotropical form, *C. (Orthocrema) limata* F. Smith subsp. *parabiotica* Forel commonly lives in parabiosis with *Camponotus (Myrmotherix) femoratus* Fabr. and *Dolichoderus (Monacis) parabioticus* Forel, and the fact that the females of certain subgenera, notably those of *Crematogaster sens. str.* (as shown in the type of the genus, *C. acuta* Fabr.), *Nematocrema* and *Atopogyne*, have small subtriangular gasters like those of the workers and unlike the voluminous, suboblong gasters of the females in other subgenera. This small size and worker-like aspect of the female gaster is, of course, a sign of underdevelopment of the ovaries and an indication that the female may be parasitic, or in other words, adapted to invading and securing adoption in a flourishing colony of some allied species in order to provide for the maturation of her ovarian eggs and the rearing of her offspring.

That a parasitic *Crematogaster* has probably been found at last, not in the tropics but in our own country, is suggested by a study of some specimens sent me for identification by Professor C. H. Kennedy. They comprise 43 workers and 7 black winged females which undoubtedly belong to a form of our common acrobat ant, *Crematogaster (Acrocoelia) lineolata* Say (near var. *cerasi* Fitch, but darker), together with 14 females and six males of a distinctly different species. The females of the latter are very small and have the head, thorax and pedicel red as in the

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