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AN AUSTRALIAN LEPTANILLA

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The very interesting Formicid subfamily Leptanillinae comprises only two genera of minute, yellow, blind and hypogæic ants, namely, *Leptanilla*, established by Emery as long ago as 1870 and *Phaulomyrma*, established by G. C. and E. W. Wheeler in 1930 on a male specimen from Java. This genus probably also includes Santschi's *L. tanit* from Tunis. Of the eleven described species of *Leptanilla*, four are known only from males; of the remaining seven, five are known only from workers and only two from both workers and females. The geographical distribution of the various species is peculiar. Six of them, namely, *L. theryi* Forel, *vaucheri* Emery, *exigua* Santschi, *minuscula* Santschi, *nana* Santschi and *tenuis* Santschi, were taken in North Africa (Algiers, Tunis, Morocco), two, *doderoi* Emery and *revelierei* Emery, in Corsica and Sardinia (though the subspecies *chobauti* Emery of *revelierei* occurs in Morocco), two, *havilandi* Forel and *butteli* Forel, in the Malay Peninsula and one, *santschii* G. C. and E. W. Wheeler, in Java.

During November, 1931, while I was with the Harvard Zoölogical Expedition in Australia, Mr. D. C. Swan of the Waite Institute at Glen Osmond, S. A., generously gave me some minute ants which he discovered in Western Austra-