

[Reprinted from PSYCHE, Vol. XL, No. 2 (1933)]

A SECOND PARASITIC CREMATOGASTER

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In 1930 I described in this journal a diminutive, presumably parasitic, female ant, *Crematogaster (Acrocœlia) kennedyi*, taken by Professor C. H. Kennedy in Indiana from a colony of our common acrobat ant, *C. lineolata* Say. Now Dr. W. S. Creighton has sent me winged females of another closely related form which he collected recently at Roanoke, Virginia, in a colony of *C. pilosa* Pergande. Since the colony also contained many females of the host, the alternatives discussed in my previous paper, seem to be applicable to this case. We may suppose that we are dealing either with a workerless parasite or with a remarkable dimorphism and dichromatism of the females of *lineolata* and *pilosa*. The latter supposition seems to be improbable because the occurrence of two forms of females cannot be a normal peculiarity of *lineolata*, since in hundreds of colonies of this ant examined by myself and others during the past 40 years only females of the large type have been encountered. And though smaller females occasionally occur in colonies of certain tropical species of *Crematogaster*, they are always few in number, wingless and ergatomorphic, and therefore quite unlike the perfect, winged microgynes taken by Prof. Kennedy and Dr. Creighton. Nevertheless, a rather serious objection to the interpretation of these insects is the presence of virgin females of the host species in the same nest. This has never been observed in any of the numerous recorded cases of ant parasitism. In the European *Strongylognathus testaceus*, however, the mother queen of the host colony (*Tetramorium cæspitum*) is not eliminated after the intrusion of the parasitic female, and Wasmann described a flourishing mixed colony of these ants in which a few male pupæ of the host species