

An incident, which strongly bears out the termitophagus and predatory habits of *Lobopelta pequeti* and their behaviour towards *M. brunnea* may, however, be mentioned in this connection. A few days after the excavation had been carried out, I observed that the nest, with the exception of a few workers, who vainly tried to rebuild it, had been deserted. In the meanwhile very near this nest a small colony of *Lobopelta pequeti* was seen to build a temporary nest, which was superficially covered over by grasses and contained their eggs, larvæ and cocoons. Some of the workers of *L. pequeti* had made their way into the demolished nest of *M. brunnea* and were found escaping from the nest with termites and larvæ of *M. brunnea* in their mouths. The workers of *L. pequeti* in this way carried out systematic depredations into the nests of *M. brunnea*. The peculiarity was that the latter apparently tolerated the presence of *L. pequeti*, and neither offered any resistance to them, nor made any counter reprisals on their enemies' nests, of the existence of which they were fully aware. It is clear from the behaviour of *M. brunnea* that this species is naturally timid and is not fond of termites as food, as otherwise they would have eaten them up long before the workers of *L. pequeti* made their appearance on the scene.

The species occurs in Bengal, Burma and Ceylon, and has been recorded from Borneo and Sumatra.

#### TRIBE : CREMATOGASTRINI Forel.

##### *Cremastogaster subnuda* Mayr.

1878. *Cremastogaster subnuda*, Mayr, *Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien*, xxviii, pp. 680, 682.  
 1903. *Cremastogaster subnuda*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 129.  
 1922. *Cremastogaster (Acrococelia) brunnea* subsp. *subnuda*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 149.

*Cremastogaster subnuda* has been reported from different parts of India (except in the dry desert parts), Assam, Burma, Tenasserim and Ceylon. In the Indian Museum collection the species is represented by two specimens from Neutral Saddle (alt. 5,000 ft.), Palni Hills, South India, collected by Dr. S. W. Kemp on September 13, 1922.

##### *Cremastogaster politula* (Mayr.).

1902. *Cremastogaster subnuda* race *politula* Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, x, p. 207.  
 1903. *Cremastogaster politula*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 131.  
 1922. *Cremastogaster (Acrococelia) politula*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 150.

The species was found living in association with aphids on the plant *Lousinia alba* at Ballygunge.

The distribution of the species is Bengal, Assam and Upper Burma.

##### *Cremastogaster soror* Forel.

1902. *Cremastogaster soror*, Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, x, p. 200.  
 1903. *Cremastogaster soror*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 134.  
 1922. *Cremastogaster (Oxygyne) soror*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 157.

A big nest of this species was found on the trunk of the tree, *Grevillea robusta*, Cunn, at Ballygunge in the month of July, 1927. The nest was situated nearly 12 feet above the ground and was attached to one side of the stem. Its colour resembled so closely that of the tree that it was at first mistaken for the stump of a branch of the tree and it was only by following the ants that the nest was detected. The nest was made of a papery substance intermixed with vegetable fibres, clay and sand debris (Plate). Prof. Hans Molisch of Vienna, to whom I had the pleasure of sending a portion of the dried nest, kindly informed me that the nest was chiefly composed of a fungus. It contained an enormous number of galleries and had numerous exits in the form of pores on the side facing the tree trunk. Although the nest was exposed to the rain, the interior of the nest was perfectly dry and contained thousands of larvæ, nymphs and workers. It is of interest to note the difference in colouration between individuals of different ages. The callows are generally grey, while the adults are dark in colour. The workers were seen tending Coccids on the same tree, a little distance from the nest.