

Camponotus sericeus (Fabr.).

1798. *Formica sericeus*, Fabricius, *Ent. Syst. Suppl.*, p. 279.
 1892. *Camponotus sericeus*, Forel, *op. cit.*, pp. 223, 231.
 1903. *Camponotus sericeus*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 376.
 1925. *Camponotus (Orthonotomyrmex) sericeus*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 125.

The workers, having black sericeous bodies, are generally found in Calcutta during the rains. They nest in hard soil and form large, well populated colonies. The nest opens to the outside by a small circular aperture, the opening being flush with the ground. The interior of the nest could not be explored as earth loosened during digging choked up the hole of the nest and obliterated its view. The foraging habit of the workers is similar to that of *Prenelopsis (Nylanderia) imparis* (Say), and their abdomen also becomes distended as in *P. imparis* owing to storage of honey in their crops.

A row of nests was discovered by the side of a road at Ballygunge, Calcutta. On the opposite side of the road nearly 30 feet from the nests, stood a *Ficus religiosa* with new leaves blossoming out. The workers coming out of the nests crossed the road and went up the tree trunk and its branches in search of food. On their return journey they made their way to their respective nests with all possible speed. Their abdomens were considerably distended, the sclerites of the abdomen being separated and the white intersegmental membranes exposed. During the return journey, if the head of a worker with the distended abdomen is gently pressed or their mandibles are drawn apart in an attempt to bite, a big drop of a clear transparent fluid with a sweet taste and smell runs out of their mouth. It is apparent that the liquid collected by them from the tree was meant for feeding others within the nest.

Two different forms of the species are found in Calcutta. In one the whole body is black and the abdomen is provided with a silky pubescence. In the second form, which is considered as a variety of the first, the head is blood-red in colour and the rest of the body black. Further, in this variety the posterior portion of the head and the pronotum are granular and the abdomen is devoid of the silky pubescence. The excavation of the posterior face of the metanotum of the variety is also slightly different from the type. The tibiae and the antennae of this variety are castaneous red. The rest of the characters are similar. Bingham reports the variety with the blood-red head from Burma and Ceylon. The species is fairly widely distributed over India and Burma.

Polyrachis thrinax Roger.

1863. *Polyrachis thrinax*, Roger, *Berlin. Ent. Zeit.*, vii, p. 152.
 1893. *Polyrachis thrinax* Forel, *op. cit.*, pp. 18, 28.
 1903. *Polyrachis thrinax*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 410, fig. 143.
 1925. *Polyrachis (Myrmotherinax) thrinax*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 183.
 In the Indian Museum collection this species is represented from Calcutta.

Polyrachis armata (Le Guill.).

1841. *Formica armata*, Le Guill., *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*, x, p. 313.
 1903. *Polyrachis armata*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 393, fig. 132.
 1925. *Polyrachis (Myrmhopla) armata*, Emery, *op. cit.*, pp. 190, 192.
 The distribution of the species is Assam, Burma extending to Borneo, Java and the Philippines. Individuals of this species is recorded from Singla (alt. 1,500 ft.), Darjeeling district, collected by the late Lord Carmichael.

Polyrachis simplex Mayr.

1862. *Polyrachis simplex*, Mayr, *op. cit.*, p. 682.
 1903. *Polyrachis simplex*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 394.
 1925. *Polyrachis (Myrmhopla) simplex*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 196.
 Several specimens and a nest, containing Coccids inside it were collected by Dr. F. H. Gravely from Durgapur Salt Lake in the vicinity of Calcutta. The nest consisting of a single chamber and made up of silky threads woven together was suspended on a tree. The species is widely distributed in India.