

TAXONOMIC STATUS OF *FORMICA SUBNITENS*  
CREIGHTON AND *F. INTEGROIDES* EMERY,  
WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE SEXUALS OF  
*F. SUBNITENS* (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDÆ) (1)

by

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During the summers of 1954 and 1955 Mr. G. L. Ayre, now of the Entomology Laboratory, Belleville, Ontario, studied the species *Formica subnitens* Creighton and *F. integroides* Emery in the field at Westbank, British Columbia. He obtained several series from nests and forwarded them to the author for identification. According to Creighton (1940, 1950), the forms were determined as *F. integroides* Emery and *F. integroides subnitens* Creighton. The writer was impressed with the consistent difference in integumental sculpture of the two ants and suggested to Mr. Ayre that close field observations of habits might reveal important ecological data that would aid in determining whether they were species or subspecies.

In October, 1955, Mr. Ayre forwarded additional nest material of the two forms from the same area with ecological notes. Association of these data with the above morphological difference and examination of the sexual of both kinds showed that these two entities are specifically distinct.

Cole (1955), on very meagre distributional evidence, elevated *F. integroides subnitens* to a specific level. The morphological, ecological and distributional data in the following table confirm Cole's assumption.

SEXUALS OF *F. SUBNITENS*

The following descriptions and measurements were made from specimens killed in 70 per cent alcohol; the females include replete and non replete forms. The measurements were taken immediately on extraction from the alcohol.

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