

was much better luck than we had any right to expect, especially in view of the fact that it was the first nest completely dug into, and also that no other queens were taken from the colony. Though we tried other nests, no further specimens of females of this species were obtained, and no winged forms, male or female, were found either. The queen was brought to the laboratory and kept in an observation nest for four months (until April 2, 1951), after which she was preserved. During the period, a few eggs were laid but only three workers were reared to maturity, and these were all much smaller than the workers from the original colony which were brought with the queen and kept with her in the artificial nest. No positive information was gleaned regarding the species of ant which serves as host for the incipient colonies of *opaciventris*, but it seems probable that *altipetens* may function in this capacity, owing to the fact that so many nests of the latter were present in the pasture where the *opaciventris* colonies were found. We did not turn up any incipient nests of the parasitic species, nor did we find any mixed colonies of the two ants, though we searched for them. It has never been established that *opaciventris* is truly a temporary social parasite, and its host is still unknown; however, it has been shown that *exsectoides* and *ulkei* both utilize *F. fusca*, so it will be no surprise if *opaciventris* is found eventually to use *fusca* or some related species. The well developed trichomes, or brushes of short hairs, on the mesonotum of the queen are strong evidence in favor of such a prediction.

*Formica opaciventris* Emery

Female: — Length 10.5 mm.; head index 0.96.

Head subquadrate, almost as wide as long; sides straight but distinctly converging anteriorly; greatest width occurs just behind the eyes; occipital border broadly and definitely excised. Clypeus entire, with only a slight point at the middle of the anterior margin, and an indistinct carina. Frontal area well defined and triangular. Antennal scapes slender though gradually increasing in thickness toward the tips, and surpassing the occipital angles by a distance