

pronotum and on all coxae. The distinct scutellar trichomes of *opaciventris* are lacking on my specimens of *exsectoides*, but this cannot be assumed to be the result of rubbing and old age, for the youth of these females is attested by their retention of wings. Wheeler (1913) alludes to small tufts of flexuous hairs on the mesonotum in his description of the queen of *exsectoides* but does not definitely state that they are trichomes. He also states that the color is like that of the worker, being deep red, with the gaster black and the mandibles, legs, vertex, funiculi, and dorsal portions of the thorax sometimes brownish or dark red. One of my specimens of *exsectoides* has no infuscation of the head or thorax except on the vertex, while the other female is heavily infuscated on all parts. Any minor color differences, therefore, which exist between *exsectoides* and *opaciventris* probably should be regarded as inconsequential. Finally, the scale on the petiole of *opaciventris* has spatulate corners, but there is no such trait in *exsectoides* typicus.

A worker and a female of the ant *exsectoides* var. *davisi* Wheeler (1913), labeled "cotype", have also been examined, and I am in agreement with Creighton that this form is a synonym of the eastern *exsectoides*. The only detectable differences between these insects are that the *davisi* female has somewhat shorter hairs and is practically devoid of gastric pubescence.

Wheeler further described the variation *hesperia* from diminutive workers, and Creighton has recently invalidated it too. A cotype worker of this ant (in the Creighton collection), checked against specimens of *exsectoides* which I have from Illinois and New York, showed the ant to be almost identical with the small workers of the typical species, particularly with respect to color, hair pattern, and shape and size of the petiolar scale. The scale is not like that of *F. dakotensis*, as contended by Wheeler, but has rather a sharp, elevated, and evenly curved superior border. Dr. Creighton (1950, p. 514), seems to be quite justified in submerging *hesperia* as a synonym of *exsectoides*. The sole difference I could find between the two is an insignificantly broader head with slightly shallower occipital emargination, but this is the sort of variation one