

species is based represent nine separate colonies collected on July 24, August 12, August 16, September 18, and September 22, 1952. They were all secured by Dr. and Mrs. Creighton from the same place (type locality), and winged castes were present in the colonies obtained on August 12, September 18 and 22.<sup>1</sup>

*Variation in type material:* About one-third of the soldiers have the vertex very smooth and absolutely devoid of sculpture save for minute piligerous punctures, the remainder showing exceedingly fine striations confluent with the rugae on other parts of the head. This delicate sculpture, however, does not reduce the brilliant surface of the vertex in the specimens to hand. Soldier mandibles may have the two apical teeth absent or nearly so, and give the appearance of having been worn down by long continued use. One soldier showed vestiges of the two lateral ocelli, and one colony contained 15 soldiers in which the postpetiolar conules were so reduced as to be nearly absent. Worker scapes just reach the occipital corners or very slightly surpass them. There are elusive differences in color among the many specimens seen, some being slightly darker in over-all tone, but these fluctuations are regarded as inconsequential.

*Affinities:* This ant is closely related to members of the *pilifera* complex, and in fact runs out to this group in Creighton's recent key (1950), but fails to fit any of the forms treated. Perusal of the accompanying tables (Table I and Table II) will help to distinguish the new ant, *creightoni*, from its relatives for the important diagnostic features have been emphasized, especially of the soldier caste. Of these, it has been found that the most valuable characteristics for separating *creightoni* from other forms of the *pilifera* group are, (1) its small size (except for *artemisias*), (2) the nature and distribution of particularly

<sup>1</sup>Since this paper was submitted, Dr. A. C. Cole very kindly sent me a sample of *Ph. creightoni* containing four soldiers and numerous workers which he collected at Winnemucca, Nevada, elevation 4334 feet, on July 8, 1954 (Cole Collection # 212). The specimens appear in every way to be conspecific with the types of the new species, and this opinion has been confirmed both by Dr. Cole and by Dr. M. R. Smith.