

"The absence of any winged or dealated females of the usual type either amongst the specimens of *aberrans* and its subspecies hitherto collected or in any of the nests which I excavated, raises the question as to the existence of such forms. etc., etc."

A nest of *M. (P.) aberrans* found by me at Altona, Victoria, contained over 50 workers and two females, whilst a nest, in the same locality, taken by Mr. T. Greaves, a young Myrmecologist, had over that number of workers, eight females and seven or eight winged males. The female is ergatoid, as is also the female of an undescribed species in my collection. No winged females have been found, and in that respect this species resembles *Myrmecia esuriens* Fab. of Tasmania. The ethology of *M. (P.) aberrans* does not differ from several of the other small species. The nest and habits of *M. (P.) picta* Smith are similar; these are dealt with below. As to the morphology, when one is familiar with the sexes and forms of all known small species it is at once apparent that if Emery's subgenera are to be maintained it becomes necessary to erect a new subgenus for every second species; the difference so apparent in the workers are, however, not apparent in the males and females, and the subgenera are therefore not justified. With the material already available a complete range of forms exists connecting *M. aberrans* at one end of the group with *M. mandibularis* at the other. While the connection is evident in the workers it is even more so in the females. They must be the deciding factor. At present we know these ants from limited areas only and undoubtedly future collecting will reveal many forms at present not suspected.

In the following pages *Myrmecia (Promyrmecia) aberrans* Forel has been redescribed and the previously unknown male and female described and figured. The much confused species *M. (P.) picta* Smith has also been redescribed in detail and an attempt has been made to clear up the synonymy. A new species, *Myrmecia (Promyrmecia) fucosa* n. sp., has been included to show relationship with *M. (P.) picta* with which it is almost identical in colour, sculpture and pilosity, but with very different mandibles. *Myrmecia esuriens* Fab. has been redescribed and the previously unknown female compared with it. This female is ergatoid (worker-like) and easily overlooked. A new genus *Nothomyrmecia* has been erected to contain a remarkable species from Western Australia. The position of this genus is doubtful. The tribe *Myrmecii*, to which it appears to belong naturally, is characterised as having narrow mandibles and a two-jointed pedicel. These characters cannot be applied to *Nothomyrmecia*; it may, therefore, be necessary to erect a new tribe, *Nothomyrmecii*, to contain this genus.

The types of the new forms are in the National Museum, Melbourne.