

**STUDIES OF NEVADA ANTS. I. NOTES ON
VEROMESSOR LARIVERSI M. R. SMITH AND A
DESCRIPTION OF THE QUEEN
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE).**

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Veromessor lariversi M. R. Smith was described recently from workers collected in Washoe County, Nevada (Smith, 1951). The type nest was in sand. Inasmuch as other data pertaining to nest characteristics and habitat have not been published and may be unknown, the writer wishes to make available the following notes as well as to describe the female caste.

While studying Nevada ants during the summer of 1954,¹ I discovered colonies of *lariversi* in two localities of the state. In a sandy, semidesert area of Churchill County, along the first unimproved road south of Silver Springs Junction and 0.9 mi. SE. of federal highway Alt. 95, more than fifty nests were observed. Large series of workers were taken from twenty-seven nests in one of which a queen was found. Males and alate females were not present. Each nest was marked by a small (5.0 cm.), shallow, sand crater which consisted largely of very fine, dry sand but with some coarse sand (or small pebbles) surrounding and covering the nest entrance. There was no activity of the ants apparent outside of the nest during the afternoon period of study. Workers were estivating in brood chambers approximately eighteen inches beneath the soil surface. When dug from their nests, the workers were sluggish of movement.

The other area at which nests were observed was near Round Mountain, Nye County, at a point 60 mi. N. of Tonopah, on state route 8 A, at an elevation of 5,900 feet. One very populous colony, comprising more than 1,000 workers, was studied. The nest was on a slight slope, covered an area of about four square meters, and was marked by nine, small, uncovered entrances, without surrounding craters. The galleries formed a labyrinth in the very hot, dry, compact sand and extended to chambers approximately twenty-two inches from the soil surface. From a study of 800 workers collected from the nest, the size range of total length of dried alcoholic specimens varies from 3.9 mm. to 8.5 mm.

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