

Reprinted from JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
Vol. LXV, September, December, 1957, pages 129-131.

NOTES ON WESTERN ANTS  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Recently found among my alcoholic collections were three nest series of *Myrmecocystus pyramicus* M. R. Smith which had been taken from an extensive sand dune area, near Hammett, Idaho, on April 10, 1932 and from a sand hill, near Twin Falls, Idaho, on October 4, 1932. The series include both males and females. At each station there were colonies of *M. mojave* Wheeler which also contained the winged castes.

My workers of *pyramicus* compare very favorably with paratypes of this species, which was described by Smith (1951, p. 91) from a sand area in Washoe County, Nevada, and also with Dr. Smith's description.

I have noted what I consider to represent the following distinctive differences between the sexes of *pyramicus* and *mojave*. In the male of *mojave* erect body hairs are abundant and comparatively short, thus giving a rather brush-like appearance to the surface; on the thorax they are longest on the scutellum. They cover all surfaces of the antennal scapes and the legs. On the gula they are sparse. In the male of *pyramicus* the body is very sparsely pilose. The hairs are long and those on the gula are both longer and more numerous than those on the gula of *mojave*. Hairs are absent from the scapes and from the legs except for the flexor surfaces. In the *mojave* male the petiolar scale is, in profile, rather low, very thick at the base, and moderately attenuated toward the apex. It is much thicker basally and also notably shorter than that of the *pyramicus* male. Viewed from the front, its apex is entire, directed upward mesally, and narrow. In *pyramicus* the petiolar scale, when viewed in profile, is comparatively high, much narrower apically than basally, and has a rather sharp superior border. In frontal view, the apex is wide, emarginate, and not directed upward mesally.

In the female of *mojave* the body pilosity is abundant. Hairs on the thorax are short. They are numerous on all surfaces of