

*Myrmica sabuleti* Meinert, 1860

This species is more localised in its distribution than *scabrinodis* yet ranges as far north as Sutherlandshire. Colonies tend to be grouped together in certain localities in much the same way as *rubra* but are usually monogynous or with few queens. Primary pleometrosis seems to be quite frequent in this species and two or three queens have often been found starting colonies together. This ant appears to flourish best in warm stony places, nesting under stones and seldom or never in tree stumps. In the north it is found only in river valleys, or in coastal districts but is frequent on hillsides in the south, especially in limestone districts.

*M. sabuleti* tends to be larger, more brightly coloured and somewhat more aggressive than *scabrinodis*. Like *rubra* it will sometimes prey on *Lasius flavus* as on other insects but, unlike *scabrinodis*, is not characteristically associated with this species. In many ways its habits and distribution in Britain resemble those of *rubra*, but its nests are normally sited in drier more insulated places. At the same time it does not seem to tolerate the more arid sandy areas where *scabrinodis* is still capable of flourishing.

Certain forms with deeper sculpture, darker colour and a massive development of the lobar extension of the scape are characteristic of a few localities in the northern Highlands. In some of these specimens the scape is sharply angled and the massive extension appears almost as a tooth in profile. Such examples were mistaken for the rarer and quite different *schencki* by the writer (Collingwood, 1951) and by Donisthorpe, who confirmed the identification at that time. The writer is grateful to Dr. I. H. H. Yarrow for subsequently pointing out the mistake. This form contrasts quite as strikingly with southern examples of *sabuleti* as "*pilosiscapus*" contrasts with southern *scabrinodis*, but can only be regarded as a minor geographic variation.

Finzi (1926) described as the race *lonae* a form described as having a more massive lobar extension than in the type, being at least twice the width of the scape at its narrowest point. Many Highland examples would fit this description and so would numerous series from further south. This appears, therefore, to be a normal variation of the species. A male from the Finzi collection kindly lent by Dr. W. L. Brown, and named by Finzi himself as "*lonae*", does not appear distinguishable from other large *sabuleti* males. In the other direction some nest series have workers with a considerably reduced extension of the scape which, however, is more elongated than in the more extreme forms of *scabrinodis*.

*Myrmica lobicornis* Nylander, 1846

This species has not been found in Ireland but is widely distributed throughout England, Wales and Scotland from the north coast of Sutherlandshire southward. It is nowhere abundant and colonies are usually single and sparsely scattered over an area. It is a characteristic species of the high Alps and other mountain areas in Europe, but has seldom been found in Britain at higher altitudes than 300 m. and is less frequent than *sulcinodis* in the Scottish Highlands. *M. lobicornis*, however, appears to be less restricted in habitat than *sulcinodis* and may be found in dry pasture, open woodland and stony hillsides as well as on heaths.