

[Reprinted from PSYCHE, Vol. XXXIX, No. 3 (1932)]

A NEW FEMALE OF ACAMATUS FROM TEXAS

BY WILLIAM S. CREIGHTON

Department of Biology, College of the City of New York

It has now been almost half a century since Ernest André gave us the first description of one of the peculiar apterous females of the New World legionary ants. Contrary to custom the recognition of this caste added further complexity to an already difficult problem since it showed that the female Eciton as well as the male cannot be correlated with the worker caste by the usual structural criteria. Fortunately the female is not likely to be taken alone but the extreme rarity of this caste and the difficulties attendant upon the capture of some of these insects have greatly impeded our knowledge of the sexual forms of Eciton. The activities of a number of investigators, not infrequently undertaken at considerable personal risk, have resulted in the discovery of females belonging to about a dozen species. There remain, however, almost three times this number of species known only from the worker caste and a large number of described but uncorrelated males. Under such circumstances it is very gratifying to have the privilege of describing another female of these curious insects.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Herbert Ruckes of the Department of Biology of the College of the City of New York, the author was given a colony of *Acamatus* taken by Dr. Ruckes near Ft. Worth, Texas. This colony contained numerous workers and a single female. I wish to thank Dr. Ruckes for his generosity and to congratulate him upon his good fortune in finding one of these rare insects.

A comparison of the workers from the above colony with material in my collection indicated that they belonged to Emery's species *wheeleri*. In order to make certain of this determination specimens were sent to Dr. W. M. Wheeler for comparison with type material. Dr. Wheeler, who very